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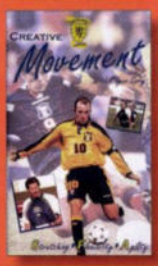

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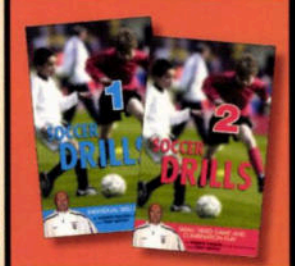

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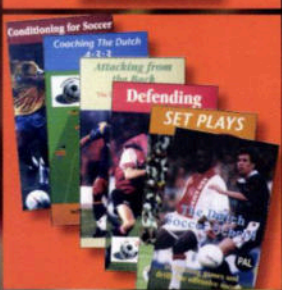

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Peter Schreiner

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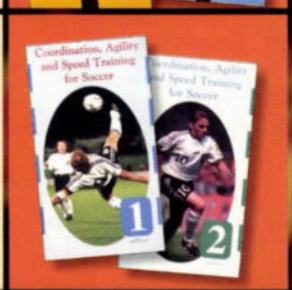

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December 2002
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Wales and Euro 2004
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THE World Club Cup should, in theory, provide the perfect opportunity to assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of European and South American club football, with the victors able to lay claim to the title of world club champions. Yet the impending meeting of Real Madrid and Olimpia of Paraguay in Yokohama will serve only to expose the financial gulf between the two continents. Sadly, the sporting contest will take second place to Madrid's global marketing ambitions and the desire of Olimpia's players to secure transfer tickets to Europe.

For reasons of simplicity, *World Soccer* has always referred to the competition as the World Club Cup, rather than the misleading World Club Championship, but it's also known as the Intercontinental Cup and, since the involvement of sponsors took the annual match to Japan in 1980, the Toyota Cup. Whatever name you care to use, the event faces an uncertain future if FIFA persists with its plans for another Club World Championship. Yet those plans will continue to appear absurd while FIFA sheds crocodile tears for those players injured as a result of an overcrowded global fixture list. UEFA has already shown the way forward by reducing the size of the Champions League. Whether FIFA can swallow its pride and ditch its plans remains to be seen.

As 2002 draws to a close, it's been another successful year for *World Soccer* as the popularity of the magazine continues to grow. Our Christmas subscription offer on page 51 is the best way to save money on future issues and ensure regular delivery.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

The month in pictures

● 06/10/02...Another hat-trick for Filippo Inzaghi, as Milan thrash Torino 6-0

● 07/10/02...Birmingham's Aliou Cisse returns to Senegal to mourn 11 relatives killed in the ferry disaster

● 08/10/02...Chievo's Luigi Del Neri is voted Italian coach of the year

● 09/10/02...Sevilla are banned from their home ground for four games following crowd violence in the derby against Betis

FIRST PERSON Roberto Carlos

'Jealous guys won't knock Madrid off course'

Full of confidence...Roberto Carlos

ROBERTO CARLOS, triumphalist Brazilian left-back, believes that Real Madrid are undergoing nothing more serious than a backlash from jealous opponents. Slipping in the Spanish League and dropping five points at home to AEK Athens and Roma in the Champions League represents a mere hiccup in what Roberto Carlos believes will ultimately be another successful season.

"The way I see it," he says, "more than ever, teams come out to play against us with seven or eight defenders. They are playing with even more fear than before, and that makes our job all the more difficult. But we are not a team who run away and hide if we lose a goal or a game. We will come through – just as we did last season."

Roberto Carlos remains one of the world's most high-profile achievers and was thus expected to finish high in the end-of-year individual awards voting.

On a personal level, of course, his ill fortune was that his Brazil and Real Madrid team-mate Ronaldo grabbed most of the headlines by his eight-goal top-scoring displays at the World Cup finals. The forward did little before or after the fun and games in South Korea and Japan to justify his supremacy.

Even so, Roberto Carlos retains enormous confidence in one of his oldest friends in the game, saying: "Playing for Real Madrid is not like playing for any other club. I know that well because I made the same move as Ronaldo originally, from Internazionale. I have no doubt that he will be one of the best players here over the length of the season. People must be patient.

"Since Ronaldo arrived we have been under even greater pressure not only to win our matches but to win in spectacular fashion. Much of that is down to the media – it's nothing to do with us.

"Now what Ronie is also finding is that at Real Madrid it's not a question of everyone working for his personal benefit – as it was at first at Inter, and Barcelona before that. He has to take responsibility for his own game – like Zidane, Figo, Raul and myself."

Roberto Carlos, while nominally a left wing-back, remains primarily an attacking player – and in that role contributed mightily both to Brazil's record fifth World Cup win and Real Madrid's Champions League triumph earlier this year. He even provided the quick-thinking throw-in from which Raul scored Madrid's opening goal in the defeat of Bayer Leverkusen in Glasgow.

But rival defences are not opening up now in the way Leverkusen did last May. Roberto Carlos thinks this is merely down to the comparatively early stage of the season, saying: "All the teams we play are still fresh, but the longer the season goes on our greater quality will pay off for us in terms of goals and results. We are already through to the second stage of the Champions League and in the second half of the season just watch us go.

'Our greater quality will pay off for us. In the second half of the season just watch Real go'

"I know we will have more games to play than many of our opponents but it's not playing matches that takes its toll in terms of fatigue – it's losing matches. That's why I would appeal for the fans to stick with us. We, the players, are not worried. We're working well together. It just takes patience and confidence – and a little support just when we need it."

The world beckons again for Madrid and Roberto Carlos. December brings the World Club Cup against Olimpia in Yokohama and then an all-star match against a FIFA XI to climax the club's centenary celebrations.

If they are to regain their allure in this double appearance on the world stage, then they must start picking up speed now.

Keir Radnedge

● 09/10/02...Landon Donovan is voted US player of the year

● 10/10/02...Howard Wilkinson (left) is unveiled as the new manager of Sunderland

● 12/10/02...Scotland win their first competitive game under Berti Vogts, beating Iceland 2-0 in Reykjavik

Talent scout YUGOSLAVIA

Vladimir Novak on the brightest prospects in the Yugoslav game

Star defender...Nemanja Vidic (right) takes on English Under-21 forward Francis Jeffers

1 NEMANJA VIDIC
(Born: 21.10.81, Club: Red Star Belgrade)
The talented central defender is perhaps already one of the best players in Europe in his position. Strong in the air and celebrated his recent senior international debut against Italy with a man-of-the-match performance.

2 JOVAN MARKOSKI
(23.06.80, Zeleznik Belgrade)
Highly gifted playmaker, excellent dribbler. After an unsuccessful spell with Red Star, his outstanding displays at Zeleznik earned a call-up to the national team.

3 DANKO LAZOVIC
(17.05.83, Partizan Belgrade)
Attacker with a genuine goal instinct, but also a good team player. Under-21 regular.

4 NENAD BRNOVIC
(18.01.80, Zeta Golubovci)
Creative midfielder who is also an effective ball-winner. Already a full international.

5 MARJAN MARKOVIC
(28.09.81, Red Star Belgrade)
Fast and skilful right wing-back. Captain of Yugoslavia's Under-21s and already part of national coach Dejan Savicevic's plans for the Euro 2004 qualifiers.

6 MILAN JOVANOVIC
(18.04.81, Vojvodina Novi Sad)
Striker with outstanding technique, speed and self-confidence. Could make a big breakthrough this season.

7 DEJAN MILOVANOVIC
(21.01.84, Red Star Belgrade)
Central midfielder with good touch, great workrate and powerful long-range shot.

8 NIKOLA VUJOSEVIC
(29.05.81, Obilic Belgrade)
Tall and powerful attacker who is strong in the air. Left-footed, with a good touch, but keeps things simple. Often compared to Savo Milosevic.

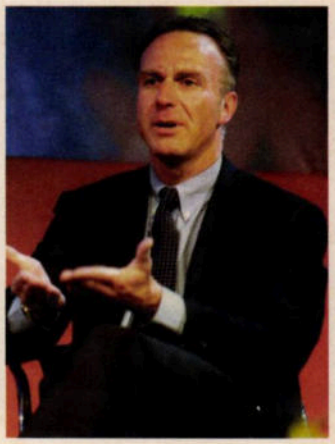
9 BRANKO BOSKOVIC
(21.06.80, Red Star Belgrade)
Talented, left-sided midfielder who likes to attack. Criticised for a lack of stamina, but has recently shown a big improvement.

10 DRAGAN RADOSAVLJEVIC
(24.10.82, Sartid Smederevo)
Left wing-back with fine technique and speed. Rejected a transfer to Kyiv Dynamo last season.

Pacy...Marjan Markovic

Notes & quotes

"It's not only a disappointment. It's a humiliation and a disgrace, and this could cost us up to 30million euros."
Karl-Heinz Rummenigge can't control his anger at Bayern Munich's Champions League exit.



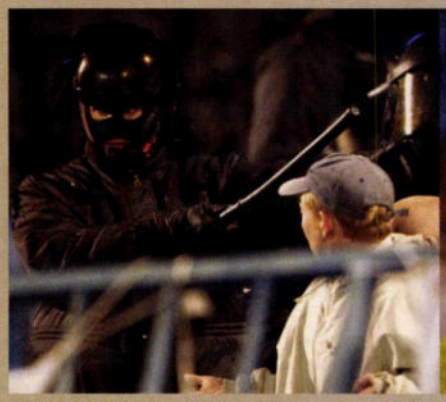
Financial blow...Karl-Heinz Rummenigge

"Why don't the media look at more important matters? I'm not the Pope."
Injured Bayern Munich keeper Oliver Kahn hits out at press intrusion after being spotted in a disco at 5am and choosing to play golf rather than watch his team play Hannover.

"Dick Advocaat goes looking for players in Barcelona and Milan. I go to Ried and Pasching."
Austria coach Hans Krankl is unsurprised by his team's 3-0 loss to Holland in a Euro 2004 qualifier.

"Dive to your left. He'll put the penalty there."
Chilean referee Carlos Chandia advises substitute Universidad Catolica keeper, defender Cristian Alvarez, on how to stop a penalty kick in a game against Universidad de Chile. And it works.

The month in pictures

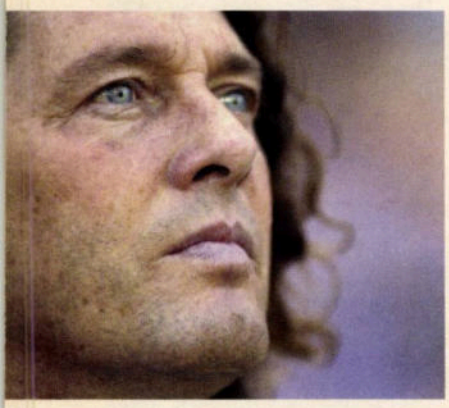


● 13/10/02...UEFA says it will investigate crowd trouble at the Slovakia-England Euro 2004 qualifier

● 15/10/02...Deportivo's Jose Molina undergoes further treatment for testicular cancer

● 16/10/02...Miroslav Klose heads the winner as Germany narrowly beat the Faroe Islands 2-1

● 17/10/02...Sven Goran Eriksson is backed by the FA after England's 2-2 draw with Macedonia



Q & A Bruno Metsu

The former Senegal coach, now in UAE with Al Ain, talks to Michael Church

● WORLD SOCCER: Why did you choose to take on the post as head coach of Al Ain after your success with Senegal at the World Cup?
BRUNO METSU: In Senegal there were only two matches before next June, and for me to have no competition is not good. We only had African Nations Cup qualifying games in Lesotho and Gambia, and as far as I was concerned, there was no work for one year. So I asked if it was possible to go to the Emirates. At first there was no problem and the sports minister said it was OK, but then the federation president said no, so there obviously was a problem. But Al Ain are challenging for the League and the Cup and the Asian Champions League. The standard of play here is good and the first objective is to do well in Asia.

● What differences have you noticed between football in Senegal and the UAE?
In Senegal, everybody plays. Every day you see it in the streets. But there is no structure, no playing fields and no leagues for the young. Here it is different because the structure is very good, but the mentality is different. The people like football but it's not the first thing on their minds. In Africa football is the first thing people think about. In Senegal there are 10 million people – and 10 million people play football. It's a different mentality.

● Were you surprised by Senegal's successful run at the World Cup?
It was a surprise for the people but not to me. I know the team and the players. They are very strong on technique, tactics and physique. All played in the First Division in France so they were not unknown. Now two have gone to Liverpool, one to Birmingham. The current crop have been playing in France since they were 17 or 18 and have learned a lot. What was interesting was that the team played well together. We were working together for two years and lost only once in 19 games. It's a young generation. Senegal will also have a very good Olympic team. They have some wonderful players in the 21 to 23 age group. Maybe in four years we can have another good World Cup too.

● African nations such as Cameroon and Nigeria have had periods of relative success on the world stage but have failed to build on them. Could the same thing happen to Senegal?
Nigeria's not the same because it's a rich country, but Senegal and Cameroon are very similar because they are poor. Now if the Senegalese don't work with the young players then they will have the same problems Cameroon and Nigeria had. In Africa there is no money, although now the big European clubs are working there because the players are strong technically and physically. The future of football is in Africa. All the big clubs – Milan, the French teams, Feyenoord – have academies in Africa and you will see more coming through. If it was not like this then African football would struggle. In Senegal now everyone is talking about football, and the national team are heroes. Before, the youngsters' heroes were Zidane or Figo. Now it's Diouf. When I arrived every player seemed to have a Milan shirt. Now it's Senegal. That is a change for the better.

● Much of the team's success was built on their family spirit. Will this change now several players have moved on?
It is possible but we must try to keep the spirit the same and maintain the mentality of the team as a family. When I first began to work with them there was a cultural problem – and the coach has to have the same mentality as the group. I had to get close to them, and get used to their customs. They lived as a group and liked to work together and that helped get results. They trained to music and had fun.

● Will the higher profile of players such as El Hadji Diouf cause problems within the team?
There will never be a problem with Diouf. He is a good man and will always help other people if he can. Diouf will play in front of 10 people in the stadium or 100,000, it's all the same to him. He has a lot of charisma and when you see him in a room everybody is drawn towards him. When he is not playing, the ambience in the team is different. The last time, in Lesotho, they only won 1-0 and didn't play well. The players told me it was difficult because Diouf was not there. He is the most important player in the team. Argentina had Maradona, France have Zidane and in Senegal it is Diouf. He calls me every week and says he likes it at Liverpool and the people like him. He's had a few poor games but he's a winner. When he's not doing well he will say so and will work even harder to do well.

● Will you be able to return to coach Senegal when your contract is completed with Al Ain?
At the moment that is not a problem because I am concentrating on Al Ain and it's important that I do good work for the club. In eight months' time, who knows? Eight months is a long time in football but I will see what happens. Every day I get people from Senegal calling me but I don't know if I would go back. Today, I couldn't give you an answer. The president [of the federation] says not to come back, so I'm not going back. He's the most important man when it comes to the team and if he doesn't want me back then it is finished. I'm an intelligent man. You have to say yes or no, and not keep changing your mind. But maybe in two or three days it will be different!

● 18/10/02...Feyenoord lose striker Pierre Van Hooijdonk for a month with a hairline fracture

● 19/10/02...Wayne Rooney scores his first League goal for Everton and ends Arsenal's unbeaten run

● 19/10/02...Christian Vieri scrambles an injury-time equaliser for Inter against Juventus

ESM
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TEAM OF THE MONTH

October 2002

Canizares (Valencia, 2 votes); Puyol (Barcelona, 4), Juan (Bayer Leverkusen, 5), Hyypia (Liverpool, 3); Aimar (Valencia, 4), Ronaldinho (Paris Saint-Germain, 4), Rosicky (Borussia Dortmund, 3), Zidane (Real Madrid, 3); Owen (Liverpool, 5), Inzaghi (Milan, 5), Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna, 4)

HOW THEY VOTED

A BOLA (POR)
Buffon (Juventus)
Cafu (Roma)
De Boer (Barcelona)
Juan (Bayer Leverkusen)
Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid)
Baraja (Valencia)
Rui Costa (Milan)
Zidane (Real Madrid)
Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna)
Di Vaio (Juventus)
Saviola (Barcelona)

FOOT (BLG)
Toldo (Internazionale)
Sagnol (Bayern Munich)
Cobos (Nice)
J Zanetti (Internazionale)
Joaquin (Betis)
Frings (Borussia Dortmund)
Ronaldinho (Paris SG)
Huysegems (Lierse)
Elber (Bayern Munich)
Inzaghi (Milan)
Fadiga (Auxerre)

KICKER (GER)
Lehmann (Bor Dortmund)
Thuram (Juventus)
Hyypia (Liverpool)
Mexes (Auxerre)
Aimar (Valencia)
Seedorf (Milan)
Zidane (Real Madrid)
Rosicky (Bor Dortmund)
Nihat (Real Sociedad)
Inzaghi (Milan)
Owen (Liverpool)

VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL (HOL)
Dudek (Liverpool)
Puyol (Barcelona)
Juan (Bayer Leverkusen)
Hyypia (Liverpool)
Aimar (Valencia)
Ronaldinho (Paris SG)
Pirlo (Milan)
Rosicky (Bor Dortmund)
Inzaghi (Milan)
Koller (Bor Dortmund)
Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna)

DON BALON (SPA)
Toldo (Internazionale)
Puyol (Barcelona)
Juan (Bayer Leverkusen)
Cannavaro (Internazionale)
Riise (Liverpool)
Ronaldinho (Paris SG)
Pirlo (Milan)
Aimar (Valencia)
Giggs (Manchester United)
Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna)
Owen (Liverpool)

GAZZETTA DELLO SPORT (ITA)
Canizares (Valencia)
J Zanetti (Internazionale)
Metzelder (Bor Dortmund)
Pellegrino (Valencia)
Juan (Bayer Leverkusen)
Camoranesi (Juventus)
Rosicky (Bor Dortmund)
Riquelme (Barcelona)
Loskov (Lokomotiv Moscow)
Owen (Liverpool)
Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna)

SPORT EXPRESS (RUS)
Dudek (Liverpool)
Puyol (Barcelona)
Juan (Bayer Leverkusen)
Hyypia (Liverpool)
Pirlo (Milan)
Murphy (Liverpool)
Nihat (Real Sociedad)
Zidane (Real Madrid)
Inzaghi (Milan)
Owen (Liverpool)
Kluivert (Barcelona)

WORLD SOCCER (UK)
Canizares (Valencia)
Puyol (Barcelona)
Mexes (Auxerre)
Materazzi (Internazionale)
Maldini (Milan)
Aimar (Valencia)
Kapo (Auxerre)
Ronaldinho (Paris SG)
Owen (Liverpool)
Kovacevic (Real Sociedad)
Inzaghi (Milan)

Notes & quotes

"I fear Como more than Inter."

Juventus vice-president Roberto Bettega believes the *scudetto* will go to the team who are the most merciless with the lesser lights of Serie A.

Unrepentant...Umit Davala

"It wasn't a good thing that I did, but they invaded my privacy. I don't have any regrets and don't have to say sorry."

Galatasaray and Turkey midfielder Umit Davala finds himself in trouble with the law following a violent altercation with journalists outside an Izmir restaurant.

"It's difficult to compete with other professional clubs on an empty stomach."

Marco Flores, goalkeeper of struggling Peruvian club Juan Aurich, claims he and many of his team-mates are on the breadline.

"I will die on the bench."

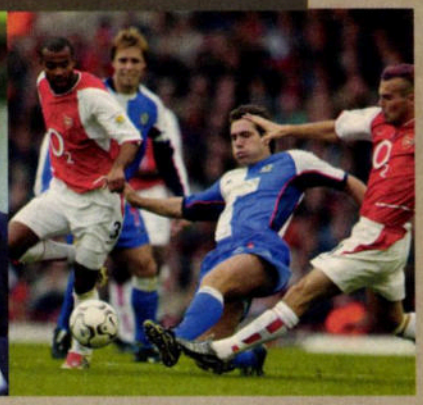
Atletico Madrid coach Luis Aragones breaks the record for the number of career wins in the Spanish top flight after taking his tally to 320.

The month in pictures

● 21/10/02...Gary Lineker heads a consortium bidding to rescue debt-laden Leicester City

● 22/10/02...Borussia Dortmund and PSV draw 1-1 in Champions League Group A

● 25/10/02...Giancarlo Camolese is sacked as coach of Torino



● 26/10/02...After their impressive start to the season, Arsenal lose a third successive game, 2-1 to Blackburn

Keir Radnedge

MEDIAWORLD

A dancing disgrace

The Bayern Ballet is danced out. Nearly five million television viewers saw the defeat by Deportivo that eliminated Bayern from Europe and asked themselves: "Why didn't they battle like real men?"

The over-hyped ballet troupe minced around like prima ballerinas. They might as well have been wearing tutus. They woke up only in the last 15 minutes and by then it was too late. And then, after all that, they weren't even man enough to answer the media's questions.

As for Giovane Elber...ideally he should let his goals speak for him. In La Coruna, unfortunately, he couldn't manage this. Not only that but when he attended the official press conference as Bayern's stand-in captain [for the injured Kahn] he spoke, unhelpfully, only in a mixture of Spanish and Portuguese. Therefore, so that he understands what we think of him, we'll put it in his own language: "Diletante arrogante."

– Wolfgang Ruiner, Bild Zeitung

On the breadline

The pride with which Argentinian newspapers trumpet European interest in local youngsters – "Silvera's goals make headlines in Europe," says *Clarin*; "Make way over there for Gaby Milito," says *Ole* – hides the painful reality that Argentinian football is mired in its worst financial crisis.

It's a reality of empty bank accounts, nine-figure debts, salaries unpaid for months and street violence that threatens those same players and their families (in September a player of Banfield was kidnapped; in October Jorge Milito, father of two top division players).

The stars of Argentinian football will go to any lengths to find a European club. 'Chaco' Coudet of River Plate phoned Deportivo La Coruna personally; the Boca Juniors goalkeeper Roberto Abbondanzieri changed the spelling of his name by replacing a 'c' with a 'z' to improve his appeal to Italian clubs. The breadline existence is being felt in the game itself.

The club doctor from Racing says: "Many of the kids who train with us each eat only one meal a day and are therefore far more easily injured."

– KWCalcio (Italian website)

Sacchi closes ranks with Trapattoni

If anyone wanted to insult a coach, the sure way to do it is to appoint him manager of Italy. You cannot achieve anything at any level: tactical, psychological or physical. Even worse, with the advent of so many foreigners in Serie A there's not even a solid block of good Italian players in one club on which you can build – the way I did at the 1994 World Cup. The national team merely reflects the weaknesses of Italian football. No good blaming Trapattoni for that.

– former Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi, ControCampo

Mock-up mockery...*Bild Zeitung* takes a literal view of the 'Bayern Ballet'

Off the fence on Crozier

The FA will (now) become like one of those sanctioning bodies that pollute professional boxing and exist only to provide promoters with a fig leaf of respectability; harmless, toothless, thoroughly useless. [Adam] Crozier is neither a saint nor a martyr but his departure is both ominous and shameful. For the clowns are now running the circus. And the dear old game may pay a terrible price.

– Patrick Collins, The Mail on Sunday

Crozier was sacked in a row about money because that is what his tenure amounted to – one big corporate cash cow. For him, his staff, the marketing department, the sponsors, the players. The average FA wage now stands at £72,000 a year, not bad for an office gig. They are all knee deep in it and that is why he went...Far from arriving in the 21st century, Crozier has sent the FA back to the Dark Ages.

– Martin Samuel, News of the World

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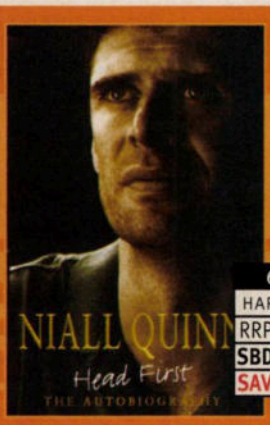

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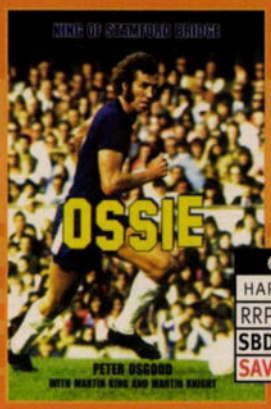

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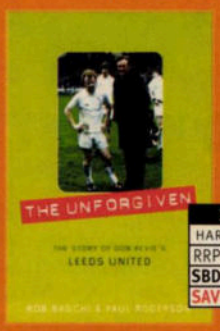

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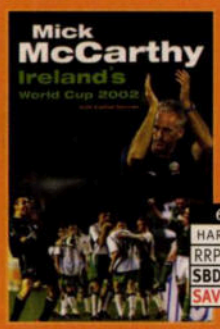

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Mick McCarthy
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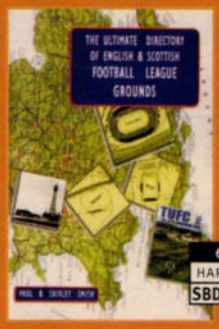

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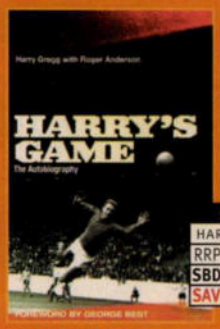

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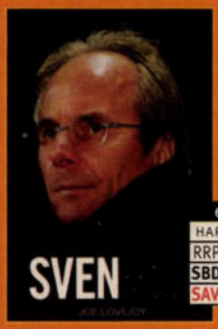

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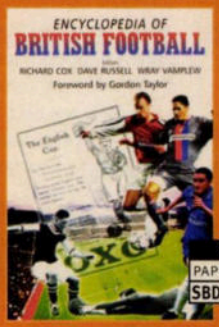

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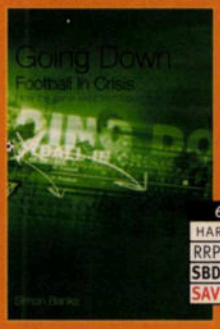

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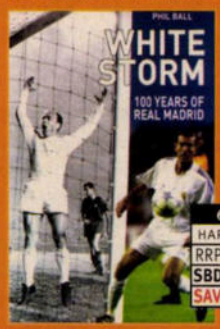

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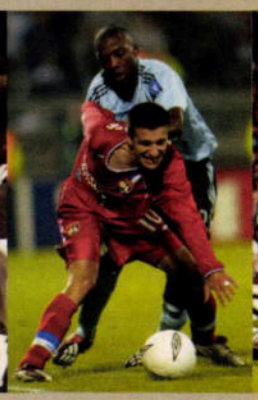
The month in pictures

● 29/10/02...Alan Shearer celebrates his winning goal for Newcastle against Juventus in the Champions League



● 30/10/02...Ajax win 2-0 at Lyon in Champions League Group D

● 31/10/02...Celtic beat Blackburn 1-0 in the first leg of the all-British UEFA Cup tie

● 01/11/02...Steve McClaren (left) quits as England's assistant coach to devote his energies to Middlesbrough

GLOBAL VIEW

Paul Gardner

Give South Americans the power to match their glory

THIS IS THE way I had it figured. Sepp Blatter says he won't run for FIFA president in 2006. Which means he probably will. Michel Platini isn't saying anything. Which means he'll probably run, too.

So far so good. But then here comes Franz Beckenbauer, the Kaiser himself, and for the first time in his life says something stupid about football. "Asia deserve to have five teams at the World Cup," says Beckenbauer, "because the Asian teams have improved significantly."

That has to be political talk. The Soccer-Kaiser knows that the two worst (by that, I mean out of their depth) teams in the 2002 finals were Saudi Arabia and China. He also knows that Japan and Korea over-performed only because they were hosts.

I'm busy re-figuring because that sounds like a third candidate for 2006, the Politico-Kaiser looking for votes. Maybe. If so, Beckenbauer's sudden affinity for Asian soccer makes good voting sense, but also exposes the tremendous flaw at the heart of the FIFA power structure.

Asia has votes – 44 of them. Africa has even more – 52, the same as Europe. CONCACAF has 35 and Oceania 11. And, bottom of the heap, as measured by president-electing voting power, we have CONMEBOL, representing South America.

So the continent that has won more World Cups than any other, that has given the world game a disproportionately high number of its greatest players, that has given us the incomparable wonders of Brazilian football...ranks below Oceania when it comes to power politics.

If Beckenbauer was thinking about the quality of the football, he should have recommended another place, or maybe two, for South America. Instead, he goes for Asia. Has to be politics. Just as the canny Blatter also ignores CONMEBOL and talks up an automatic World Cup berth for Oceania. Which means Australia. Now who, in his right soccer mind, would wish that on the world's fans?

Another way of assessing South America's lack of influence at the political and administrative level of world football is to look at the composition of some of those FIFA committees and panels. In particular, those that have to do with the game as played on the field, the very area where the Latin Americans have shown their superiority.

FIFA's football committee, made up mainly of ex-players, has among its 27 members 13 Europeans and four Africans – but only three South Americans. A look at FIFA's 31-member panel of coaching instructors reveals 20 Europeans and just one South American. A pattern there? No, no – I was once told by a FIFA representative there was no discrimination, it was just that *(whisper)* the Latins weren't very good at committees and, anyway, all that travelling made their presence a problem.

Maybe this isn't that big a deal – it's not as though these committees ever accomplish very much. But the lack of Latins is most glaring on that archaic body, the International Football Association Board, which decides what changes, if any, should be made to the rules of the game.

IFAB has always been a relentlessly European body, its thinking and decisions made by men who grew up on and are still nurtured by a diet of European – mostly British – football. For it to have no permanent representative of the South American game looks like discrimination. It also looks utterly dumb. To have a situation where the continent most influential in football terms is the least important politically is obviously unsatisfactory.

There can be no doubt, surely, that FIFA, as at present constituted, is a heavily over-politicised body. That unpalatable fact was made clear during the great referee debate of the 2002 World Cup. Did the problems result from unprepared officials being selected for political (i.e. vote-getting) reasons?

The denials were unconvincing, more so now that FIFA is insisting only the best will do and that the trio of match officials must be compatriots. CONCACAF's Jack Warner has condemned the idea, which he clearly sees in political terms, one that would greatly reduce the chances of World Cup appointees being from smaller nations such as those that make up most of CONCACAF's membership.

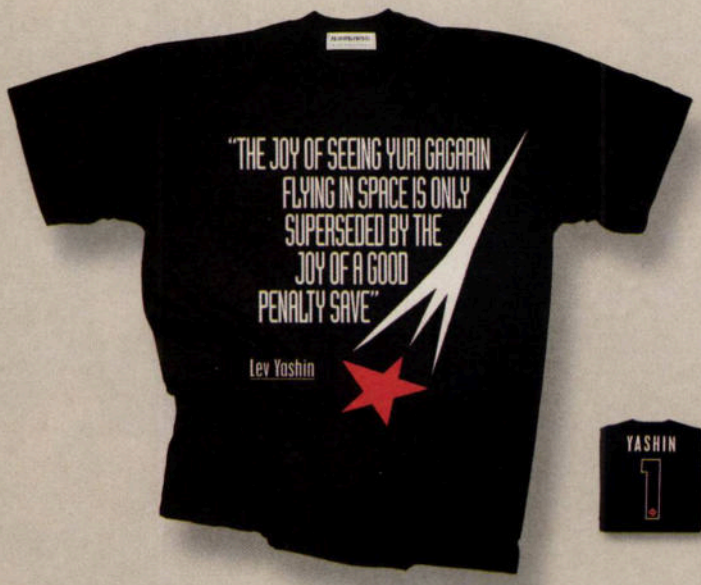
If 'only the best' is the yardstick for referees, then why not for teams? If we really want more teams that try to play decent soccer in the World Cup finals, the number of South American and African berths should be increased. This can be done quite easily at the expense of heavily over-represented Europe.

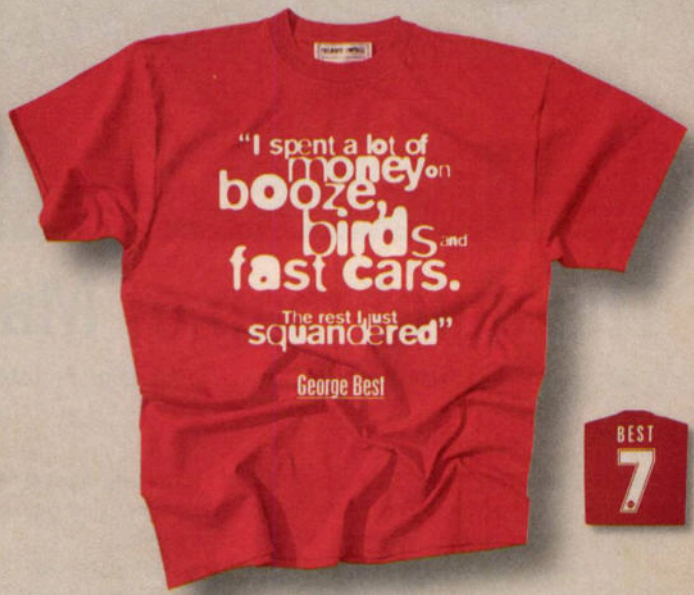
'The continent that has won most World Cups and given the game the wonder of Brazil ranks below Oceania when it comes to power politics'

If this proves politically impossible, my plan is to break up all the Confederations. Africa, for instance, into North, South, East and West – and similarly with Europe and Asia. This will increase the comparative voting strength of South America, but probably not by enough. So I shall abolish CONMEBOL, and a new, style-based confederation will be formed, including South America and all the other Latin-style nations – France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Mexico and Central America.

That should give the Latin game the necessary voting strength. I'm also playing it safe by making Switzerland an honorary Latin nation, just in case there are any administrative details that might need smoothing out.

Strength in Depth





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Centre of attention...Del Bosque takes the plaudits after Real Madrid's Spanish League triumph in 2001

The quiet man of Madrid

As his team prepare to play Olimpia of Paraguay in Yokohama, Real Madrid coach Vicente Del Bosque talks to Simon Baskett

IT IS THREE years since Vicente Del Bosque took over the coaching duties at Real Madrid following the mid-season sacking of John Toshack. Few commentators had expected the former youth team coach to last beyond the end of the season.

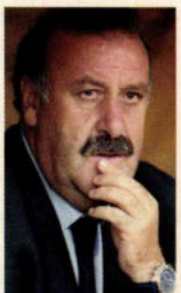
The club had been through seven coaches in the previous five years and Del Bosque, who had filled the post on a temporary basis on previous occasions, was widely perceived to be a stop-gap appointment.

But two events helped convert the softly-spoken former Real Madrid midfielder into a long-term occupant of the post. First, he steered Real to their triumph in the 2000 Champions League with a 3-0 victory over fellow Spaniards Valencia in the Final in Paris. Then newly-elected club president Florentino Perez promised a departure from the trigger-happy hiring-and-firing regime of his predecessor, Lorenzo Sanz, and a return to stability on the coaching front.

Perez's policy paid off. The club claimed their first League title in four attempts the following season, then won the Champions League for the third time in five years with the 2-1 victory over Bayer Leverkusen at Hampden Park last May.

Del Bosque, 51, is a club man through and through. For some 34 years his life has revolved around Real and he readily admits that his only ambition is to remain a loyal servant of the club. Polite, diplomatic to a fault and somewhat lugubrious in his manner, Del Bosque has the aura of a benign grandfather rather than a hard-nosed football coach.

Yet he has done what many of his predecessors conspicuously failed to do and has held together a star-studded Bernabeu dressing-room containing some of the best players – Zinedine Zidane, Luis Figo, Roberto Carlos, Raul and new recruit Ronaldo – and some of the biggest egos in world football.



Loyal...Del Bosque

"We don't try to impose our will on the players, but set out to reason with and convince them"

WORLD SOCCER: How do you manage to deal with a dressing-room that contains so many world-class players and keep their egos in check?

VICENTE DEL BOSQUE: The secret lies in treating everyone in the team completely normally. The players are a generous and well-behaved lot, and all of them are good sportsmen. Of course, they have their own particular whims as you would expect, but nothing really any different from the players in any other team. So we don't try to impose our will on them, but instead we set out to reason with and convince them.

What about keeping the players happy when they have to sit it out on the bench?

That is the hardest thing to do as a coach. But it is just as hard to tell a young player who has all the enthusiasm in the world and is desperate to play that he has to sit on the bench or even in the stand as it is to

tell a major star. Of course, it is a problem when you have to leave out a leading player who has a great record behind him, but that occurs in every team these days.

Many commentators say that experienced players such as Fernando Hierro and Raul hold too much sway at the club. Is that true?
I am not interested in analysing whether such player power really exists or not. In the relationship between the coach and the players what is important is that there is mutual respect and that each one knows where his responsibility lies. Apart from that, whether people say a certain player has too much power or influence doesn't really bother me.

Despite the strengths of the squad you don't seem to be as keen on rotating players as other coaches. Why is that?
Well, each club has its own individual needs and in our case we don't have the same needs of, say, Valencia or Atletico Madrid. We have some great players on our books and although I can't explain it any more precisely, the expectations that are associated with the club mean that the big players may have to play more often if they are at Real.

Some managers appear to want to make their players adapt to their style, but you seem to favour the opposite approach.
There is a fundamental premise in football and that is that the coach has to adapt to the players he has and that the type of players he has at his disposal will determine the way that the team play. So that within some general limits we aim to give players the freedom that they need to express themselves, but without losing the football style that is associated with Real Madrid.

What is that style?
It is something that Real have always been identified with – an elaborate, rapid and precise style characterised by a high level of technical skill. We don't want to undermine or limit the initiative of individual players, but we always try to play according to the same basic criteria.

How would you compare your approach to that of Barcelona coach Louis Van Gaal?
I don't know Mr Van Gaal well enough to comment on his work and I don't like making comparisons. Each coach has his own way of dealing with the players, his own way of coaching a team and his own way of seeing football. All that I can say is that I imagine his view of football is different to mine.

How does your role as coach fit in with that of sporting director Jorge Valdano and president Florentino Perez?
We all work in parallel. The president is obviously the maximum authority in the club, Jorge Valdano is the maximum authority in the sporting sphere and I am the one who deals with the dressing-room and the team. Apart from that, each one of us tries to carry out our obligations to the best of our abilities without stepping on the toes of any of the others.

What is the secret of your success since taking over as coach three years ago? Two Champions Leagues, a League championship and a European Supercup are certainly an impressive haul.
It is quite simple. The successes we have had are the consequence of having good players, being down to earth in the way that I work and knowing what Real Madrid need as a club.

Is it an advantage to have been a one-club man and know the club so well?
Not really. I do have a certain perspective on the way the club works because I have seen a number of other coaches pass through the Bernabeu and because I have been involved with the players for so long. That may give me a slight advantage, but nothing really significant. With a bit of common sense any coach would be able to manage the club.

"With a bit of common sense any coach would be able to manage this club"

Fall guy...new boy Ronaldo gets close attention from AEK Athens

You seem unaffected by the pressure of being Real Madrid coach.
Although it may not look like it from the outside, I am, in fact, a very nervous person. I am always anxious about the result of every game, about training, about the way the team are playing – and that is a reflection of the intensity with which people here live football every day. So it isn't true that I am relaxed; the job concerns me a lot and I am constantly worried.

Has a particular coach or person at the club influenced you as a coach?
Yes, a generation of players emerged from the club and have now gone into coaching, and we were all heavily influenced by the coaches we had when we were playing for Real. Miljan Miljanic, for example, was a great innovator when he took over here 28 years ago. Vujadin Boskov and Luis Molowny were also big influences on me personally as well as on the club itself. Of course, there have also been major changes in the thinking about coaching since then. The new format of competitions and games has determined the way a team has to train, but these people are still a great influence.

What are your personal ambitions at Real Madrid. Do you hope to be here as long as, say, Alex Ferguson has been at Manchester United?
No, I don't have any such ambitions. The way I approach my work is to focus on the day-to-day job and not look any further than that. If you have a strong sense of your daily responsibilities then that is what helps you achieve things in the longer term.

Why do Real always appear to find it easier to play in European or international competitions rather than the Spanish League?
It is true we have shown greater authority in the Champions League in recent years, possibly because of the esteem with which the team is held in Europe. We notice it on our travels. If we go to Greece, Belgium, England or Russia, for example, there is a massive admiration for Real Madrid. That is not to say that Real are any less valued here in Spain. However, here the teams know us

better and have an even greater incentive to play against us. It keeps their fans happy, there is always media interest and so they create a lot more problems for us.

Are Real Madrid the best club in the world?
Of course I am biased about this because I have been here for 34 years and for me Real Madrid has meant everything in my life. But in terms of titles, trophies and the social impact of the club Real is the best in the world. You would obviously get a more objective viewpoint from outside the club but many people in the football world have acknowledged our status.

How do you feel about the addition of Ronaldo to the squad?
All we want is for Ronaldo to feel comfortable at the club so that he can concentrate on playing. We are delighted to have him because he is going to give us a new dimension in attack – he will add that speed, that depth that we have sometimes lacked in the past. So for us the most important thing is that he stays fit, plays regularly and enjoys himself. We certainly don't want to force him to play when he isn't fully fit because it could backfire on us.

Was Ronaldo signed at your request?
No, not really. We were looking at a way to vary our attack and the chance of signing Ronaldo emerged, so we went ahead with the negotiations.

Given the arrival of Ronaldo and the excellent form of Guti, is there still a place in the team for Fernando Morientes?
Without a doubt. Fernando is first and foremost a very good person, who has a great relationship with the rest of the team. As a player he also has some very special characteristics that set him apart from other forwards in the team. Right now we have six forwards; each one has his own qualities and none plays in exactly the same way. Fernando can bring things to the team that other players can't.

Are you angry or frustrated that your plea for the club to sign a central defender was ignored?
No, I am not worried about that. We have enough cover in defence. It is true that we have lost three players – Geremi, Aitor Karanka and Ivan Campo – who could all play in the centre of defence, but [Francisco] Pavon broke through last year

Major player...but Raul knows his responsibilities to the club

and Ivan Helguera has dropped back from midfield to his former position. We also have some promising young defenders coming out of the youth teams who can help us out when we get into any difficulties.

In what ways can the Real Madrid that lost the League and Cup last season improve this time out?
For the past few seasons we have been playing a style of football that has been recognised throughout Europe as being some of the best on the continent, which for me is a big compliment but perhaps has been recognised more outside Spain than inside. Last year we may not have been brilliant in the Final of the King's Cup but we were brilliant in the rest of the competition. This season we are a stronger, more secure team with even more quality and with a stronger defence.

Will it be a failure if you don't win the League and/or the Champions League this season given the stars at your disposal?
Both the team and myself are being judged constantly. Every week, with every game, we face a trial or examination of a different sort. People always demand that Real win titles and if we don't win any we will have to reflect on that at the end of the season. So I can't deny that it will be painful if we have nothing to show for this season.

> "Ronaldo gives us a new dimension in attack – that speed, that depth we have sometimes lacked in the past"

Special...Morientes

From what you have seen so far of the Champions League, who do you think will be the major threats to Real retaining their crown?
We have all been surprised by the situation in which Bayern Munich have found themselves this season. On paper they appeared to be the strongest team in the competition but they have struggled and failed to qualify for the second group phase, which has been a shock. As for the other threats, the traditional big teams in the competition, such as Manchester United, Milan – who have started superbly – and Arsenal will be hard to beat, as will the other Spanish sides.

And which sides are likely to challenge for the Spanish League?
Hopefully, ourselves – but look at the range of quality teams in Spain and you can see why there is equality in the First Division at the moment. There is not a single easy game and it will be a very close-fought battle this season.

Is the Spanish League the strongest in the world?
I believe so, and this isn't just my opinion; the evidence is there for all to see. In both the Champions League and the UEFA Cup our teams are doing very well, and these are incontrovertible facts. Spanish clubs have dominated European competition in recent years, and this season looks like being another good one.

How big a priority is the World Club Cup?
We are very keen to win it again, just as we are the Spanish League, the Champions League and the King's Cup. The World Club Cup is more of a strategic objective, a one-off game that crops up at a particular point in the season. It is a bit like the European Supercup, which we had never won before this year.

What do you know about your opponents, Olimpia?
I have to admit that we know very little about Olimpia, apart from the international players in their team. But when we get nearer the time and focus on the game we will have reports and information about them that will enable us to plan our approach properly.

● *Real Madrid play Olimpia on December 3 at Yokohama International stadium for the World Club Cup, also known as the Toyota Cup or Intercontinental Cup.*

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Nothing to fear

Olimpia, the South American club champions, have little to lose and everything to gain, says Tim Vickery

A PARAGUAYAN, goes the saying, can be beaten by a better man, but never by a braver one. But with the financial gap between European and South American football wider than ever, Olimpia will need to perform an act of legendary heroism if they are to overcome Real Madrid in the World Club Cup Final on December 3.

Twelve years ago on their previous visit to Japan, the Paraguayans went down 3-0 to a Milan side in their pomp, and most will be expecting a similar scoreline this time.

In terms of tradition, though, this is no mismatch. Ever since they were formed, exactly a century ago, Olimpia have been Paraguay's leading club, and they are also well established as a continental power. Stalwarts of the Libertadores Cup, they have participated in all but 10 of the 43 editions, a record bettered only by Penarol of Uruguay.

They were beaten finalists in the inaugural Libertadores in 1960 and 19 years later became the first side outside Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay to lift the trophy. The big three countries have missed out only five times. On three of those occasions Olimpia were champions.

Olimpia have won the World Club Cup before. In 1979, they beat Malmo in the competition also known as the Intercontinental Cup, the World Club Championship and, for sponsorship purposes, the Toyota Cup. Then, the Final was played over two legs, with Malmo representing Europe after European champions Nottingham Forest followed the example of Ajax, Bayern Munich and Liverpool in refusing to take part.

It was only when the Japanese stepped in and offered to host a one-off match on a neutral ground – Tokyo's National stadium – that credibility was restored. The match moves this year to Yokohama's International stadium, venue for June's World Cup Final.

This year, the meeting between traditional giants takes on the air of David and Goliath, largely because one side keeps getting bigger while the other is shrinking.

If Olimpia could hold on to the stars they have groomed (such as Celso Ayala, Denis Caniza, Carlos Paredes, Jorge Campos and Roque Santa Cruz) then they could swagger into the game against Real with at least a puncher's chance. But all have long since moved on to greener pastures. While Real can parade the idols of the global game, Olimpia's team can broadly be divided into three groups: some on the way to Europe, some who have come back, and the majority who will never receive the call.

The gulf in resources has been cruelly widened at the very point where it matters most – centre-forward. Where Madrid have added Ronaldo to the team that won the Champions League, Olimpia may have to do without their main marksman from their successful Libertadores campaign.

A fit Richart Baez, with his capacity to fight a lone battle up front, would be fundamental to Olimpia's game plan. But the striker has found himself wrapped up in red tape. He was loaned back from Mexico to play in the Libertadores, and the Paraguayan FA has ruled him ineligible for the domestic League.

Baez has not played since scoring a vital goal in the second leg of the Libertadores Final on July 31. Frustrated by his inactivity, he has talked of returning to Mexico.

Even if Olimpia can wield some influence and get Baez back in action, he is bound to be short of match fitness. But whatever else they may lack, Olimpia will surely have the edge in motivation. This is their big day, when they have little to lose and worldwide reputations to gain.

They plan to travel to Japan on November 21, giving themselves every chance to adjust to the time zone and temperature difference. Such a build-up has not always worked for South American teams; spending so long focusing on the game in Japan has left them too tense to do themselves justice.

Olimpia, though, should have enough experience in the squad to ensure that they play to their potential. In all probability, they will treat the game like an away tie in the Libertadores – in seven away ties in this year's competition, they conceded just six goals.

The defence picks itself. In front of keeper Ricardo Tavarelli will be a back four of Nestor Isasi, Julio Cesar Caceres, Nelson Zelaya and Henrique Da Silva. The full-backs will tuck in, and with the line operating close together they will seek to reduce Madrid's space and funnel the ball towards the excellent Caceres.

During the Libertadores the make-up of the midfield was similarly predictable. Julio Cesar Enciso was the anchorman, Sergio Orteman took the right flank, Gaston Cordoba the left, while Victor Quintana and Juan Carlos Franco competed for the remaining place. But the latter two have both moved on, to Brazil and Libya respectively, leaving coach Nery Pumpido with a decision on his hands.

If Baez is unable to partner the veteran Miguel Benitez, then the skilful Rodrigo Lopes could be Olimpia's surprise weapon. It would leave the side without a target man, but fielding a tricky front duo should give Olimpia the chance to force some free-kicks – which might be their best chance of getting on the scoresheet and causing an upset.

Glittering prize...captain Julio Cesar Enciso lifts the Libertadores Cup

"The meeting between Olimpia and Real has an air of David and Goliath – one side keeps getting bigger while the other is shrinking"

Fact file

CLUB OLIMPIA
Founded July 25, 1902
Address Avenida Mariscal Lopez 1154, Asuncion, Paraguay
Phone/Fax +595-21/200 780 or 213 114
Internet www.clubolimpia.com.py
Stadium Manuel Ferreira (capacity 30,000)
President Osvaldo Dominguez Dibb
Honours 38 Paraguayan championships; 3 Libertadores Cups (1979, 1990, 2002); World Club Cup 1979; Inter-American Cup 1979

Olimpia: the squad

THE COACH

Nery PUMPIDO (Arg)
Born: 30.07.57. Former goalkeeper best known for winning the 1986 World Cup with Argentina and for suffering a horrific injury at Italia 90. Took over at Olimpia at the start of the year after several seasons coaching Union Santa Fe. Winning the Libertadores has done wonders for his profile in his native land; following Argentina's World Cup disappointment he was among the many names cited in the press as a future national team coach.

GOALKEEPERS

Danilo ACEVAL
15.09.75. Athletic keeper with good reflexes who was Paraguay's reserve at France 98. Once seen as a great hope, his career has lost momentum.

Ricardo TAVARELLI
02.08.70. Experienced, charismatic keeper who deputised for Jose Luis Chilavert in Paraguay's 2002 World Cup opener against South Africa and is now his country's first choice. Stocky figure, an excellent shot stopper but not always so proficient dealing with crosses.

Big challenge...Miguel Benitez

DEFENDERS

Pedro BENITEZ
23.03.81. Promising stopper, strong in the air, known as 'Goose'. A stalwart of Paraguay's 2001 World Youth Cup side.

Julio Cesar CACERES
05.10.79. Has enjoyed an extraordinary year after the switch from midfield revealed a centre-back whose reading of the game and timing in the tackle are first class. One of the heroes of the Libertadores victory.

Virgilio CACERES
21.05.62. Former team captain, the veteran right-back has had few opportunities since Isasi was signed from Guarani. Loyal servant who should get a place on the bench if only for sentiment's sake.

Henrique DA SILVA (Bra)
23.06.72. Left-back who spent so long first in Argentina and now Paraguay that he has been forgotten in his native Brazil. Tucks inside to cover Zelaya. Can also push forward.

Nestor ISASI
04.09.72. Solid, stocky defender who is Paraguay's first-choice right-back. A free-kick specialist whose long-range effort ended Boca Juniors' reign as Libertadores champions.

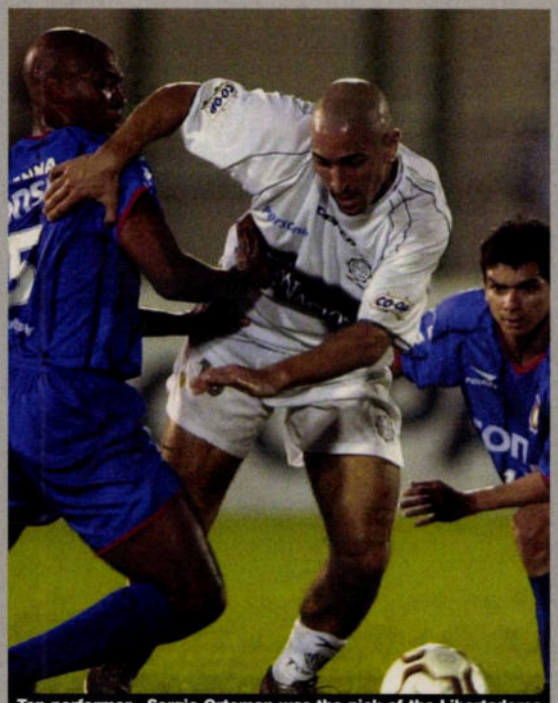
Juan Ramon JARA
06.08.70. Vastly experienced former international who spent several years in Argentina. Now offers defensive cover, particularly at left-back.

Nelson ZELAYA
09.07.73. Tall centre-back, commanding in domestic football but who has often struggled to show quality on international duty.

MIDFIELDERS

Gaston CORDOBA (Arg)
12.06.74. Left-sided midfielder whose CV includes a season in Serie A with Sampdoria. Perhaps on the lightweight side at the top level, but his left-footed elegance is important to the balance of the team.

Julio Cesar ENCISO
05.08.74. Captain and midfield anchorman whose omission from the 2002 World Cup was highly controversial and hard to justify. Knits the team together with shrewd positioning, sharp tackling and sound passing.


Top performer...Sergio Orteman was the pick of the Libertadores

Francisco ESTECHE
12.11.73. Slight midfielder with a subtle right foot. Was kept out of the side by Orteman during the Libertadores, but could find a place on the right flank if the Uruguayan moves into the centre.

Carlos ESTIGARRIBIA
21.11.74. Hard-running but limited midfielder, a regular substitute who has come into contention for a first-team place since Victor Quintana and Juan Carlos Franco moved on. Paraguayan international.

Sergio ORTEMAN (Uru)
29.09.78. Deservedly chosen as the player of the Libertadores after a series of rampaging displays down the right side of midfield. Exceptional lung power, fighting spirit and a crashing right foot.

David VILLALBA
13.04.82. Began as a right-back but has had more opportunities since being converted to a midfielder earlier this year.

FORWARDS

Richart BAEZ
13.07.73. Central striker whose long lay-off with bureaucratic problems is a big worry. Has only average ability, but with a wholehearted approach and tactical intelligence is fundamental to the team. Strong enough to play up front on his own, links well and finishes with competence on the ground and in the air. Was in the World Cup squad and unlucky not to get a game.

Miguel BENITEZ
19.05.70. Gnat-like striker who with his dribbling and powerful snapshots was Paraguay's most dangerous weapon at France 98. Played most of his career in Spain, then suffered a serious injury and returned home in an unsuccessful bid to force his way into the 2002 World Cup squad. Not the player he was, but will be desperate to rise to the big occasion.

Mauro CABALLERO
03.05.72. Stocky striker who has been a consistent marksman in domestic football. Neat rather than outstanding, and looks short of pace and confidence at higher levels.

Hernan Rodrigo LOPES (Uru)
21.01.78. Talented Uruguayan, once with Torino, who was signed towards the end of the Libertadores campaign. Came off the bench to play as an attacking midfielder, and his cool head from the penalty spot was crucial in the semi-final and Final shoot-outs.

Gilberto PALACIOS
08.01.80. Left-footed striker who has had a hard climb up through the ranks. Struggles for pace but has plenty of skill.

Wholehearted...Richart Baez

Back in the firing line

Keir Radnedge on the Dutch coach who has defied convention by returning to Barcelona

LOUIS VAN GAAL has a reputation for self-confidence bordering on arrogance. Those close to him say this is misleading; that the 51-year-old Dutchman is 'guilty' only of enormous personal commitment.

He has worked intensely down the years to develop his ideas about what works and what does not. He merely follows that through in his day-to-day dealings with players, fellow coaches, club officials and the media.

Van Gaal's manner has not always worked in his favour. Holland's failure to qualify for the 2002 World Cup finals provoked back-of-the-hand smirks from critics who felt he had received his comeuppance.

But if Van Gaal was not a man prepared to admit to mistakes and to learn the lessons of the necessary, awkward self-analysis then he would not have gone back this past summer to Barcelona – a club in a much more restricted financial state than when he first strode into Camp Nou in 1997.

Euro battle...Luis Enrique takes on Galatasaray

When Van Gaal first went to Barcelona the club splashed all the money it took to bring in the phalanx of Dutch and other former Ajax stalwarts he wanted. There were so many of them that the Spanish media nicknamed the team 'Barça-Ajax'. This time it's been different.

Barcelona's failure to win anything over the past two years has run down the cash reserves and Van Gaal is far more dependent now on his coaching and personnel skills to bring the best out of the players already on board.

No wonder Van Gaal permitted himself the glimpse of a smile after the 1-0 win away to Club Brugge in Group H of the Champions League. The simultaneous defeats of Manchester United (by Maccabi Haifa) and Milan (in Lens) meant that his Barcelona were the only club remaining able to boast a 100 per cent record after five group matchdays.

Barcelona had played erratically and beneath their potential thus far in the Spanish League and been notable and embarrassed giantkilling victims in the domestic Cup. Out in the international arena, however, they were setting the pace. It has been too long since they could say that.

President Joan Gaspart was also a happy man. He had courted controversy by reappointing Van Gaal, whose departure had been celebrated by fans as a victory for people power when he quit the club in 2000.

But Gaspart had divined that, after two years without a trophy, the dressing-room needed a strong hand, a man who knew all about the goldfish-bowl pressures of the club and a man with a successful track record – one Champions League, one World Club Cup, one UEFA Cup and three domestic League titles with Ajax, then one European Supercup, two Spanish Leagues and one Spanish Cup with Barcelona.

Van Gaal appears more at ease with the Catalan experience this time. His previous stay made it easier. As he says: "I have many friends in Sitges near Barcelona so I had no doubts about moving there. I like the climate, the cuisine, the way of life, the people – and I think now I have adapted better than before to the culture and way of life.

"The first time I came to Barcelona I knew very little about what awaited me. This time it's been very different. I was better prepared. It's not just old friends, it's about managing a squad of players, coaches, club officials, directors, president and a press that's always got its eyes on everything you do. Until you work in Spanish football you cannot understand the pressure and the challenge."

The lingua franca of the dressing-room is a mixture of Spanish, English and German with some Catalan inflexions – though Van Gaal makes no pretence at a command of the local language. He does not have the time for study. His linguistic demand is that, at the least, everyone speaks Spanish.

Of course, Van Gaal has not escaped criticism from Barcelona's impatient fans, particularly over his role in the summer departures of old favourites such as Sergi and Abelardo and his old nemesis, Rivaldo.

"I understand there are fans disappointed we don't have these players any more because everyone has a right to his opinion," says Van Gaal, the only man whose opinion counts.

"The truth is that these were three players who had contributed a great deal to Barcelona but it was time for them to move on. I think the decision, in each case, was right both for the club and for the player. As for the fans, I've always accepted that people will criticise you – even when your team are winning. I don't get angry any more. I have learned to accept that's the way it is. Criticism can be good when it is constructive but much of the criticism a coach gets is illogical. No one outside the dressing-room can see all the pieces of the jigsaw puzzle.

> "The first time I came here I knew very little about what awaited me. This time I was better prepared. Until you work in Spanish football you cannot understand the pressure and challenge"

"It's the same with the media: they see what they want to see. For example, early this season the press tried to make a big story of the fact that in one match I celebrated one particular goal by Frank De Boer and not another in the same game. They tried to deduce that I liked one player more than another.

"All nonsense. I jumped off the bench because De Boer had scored the first goal in the game, which was very important for us. By the time the other goals came, from Philip Cocu and Juan Riquelme, we were in charge. Scoring the first goal always has particular importance. I can't help anyone who doesn't understand that."

The issue of 'favourite' players has haunted Van Gaal, to his irritation. To him it is simple logic that some players – like De Boer, who takes the brunt of the criticism – suit his technical and tactical purposes better than others.

Van Gaal accepts it as just part of the business. He says: "No player has a guaranteed place in my team, even though I am the one who recommends whether we sign a player or not. I wanted the German goalkeeper, Robert Enke, from Benfica but Victor Valdes, a local player, has been doing better so he played in our early matches. Enke had to wait but it's a long season. His turn will come. The same applied to Roberto Bonano, who went to the World Cup with Argentina and took a little while to regain his form."

Of course, the most intriguing draw – some way down the Champions League route – would match Barcelona against Milan, Van Gaal against Rivaldo.

The wider picture is that this is possibly the most attractive Champions League since the competition was revamped. Not that Van Gaal considers this so significant in terms of likely outcome. He warns: "The World Cup showed that as time goes on the difference between the top teams is growing more marginal all the time. I don't think there are any 'small teams' any more.

"For example, we beat Legia Warsaw in the qualifying round, and Polish football is not particularly highly rated now, but they were a good team. We have played well so far in Europe but it is hard to maintain that sort of form consistently. There will be some more surprises in this Champions League."

Whether the hegemony of the likes of Barcelona, Real Madrid, Juventus and Milan will be disturbed by the TV cash crisis afflicting the European game is open to question. But Van Gaal, understandably as a graduate of the Dutch game, thinks the outcome will be positive.

"The TV rights market was out of control," he says, "and clubs were paying their players much more than they could afford. Now reality is setting in. Clubs are starting to get their act together. Players' wages are going down and some, like in Italy, have already set an example by taking pay cuts. The market will settle down and that will be good for the game in general."

Market movement or not, Van Gaal and Barcelona will, in the meantime, continue to rake in the Champions League cash.

I'm in charge...Van Gaal is more at ease in his second stint at Barça and has learned to be more tolerant with his critics

On top of his game

Roma's goalkeeper talks exclusively to Keir Radnedge

FRANCESCO ANTONIOLI has just experienced the most remarkable four days of his career. Roma's veteran goalkeeper saved a penalty from Sinisa Mihajlovic to preserve a 2-2 draw with Lazio in the Rome derby, then defied Raul and Ronaldo, in particular, as Roma won 1-0 at Real Madrid in the Champions League. It was the first Italian club success in the Bernabeu for 35 years.

WORLD SOCCER: Was Roma's win in Madrid, along with the successes of Milan, Juventus and Inter, a sign that Italian clubs are regaining their command of European club football?

FRANCESCO ANTONIOLI: There is no other way to look at it. But also it's no good denying we've had some bad years. There are three reasons why things went wrong. I've heard it suggested that it's because we start the Serie A season later than the rest of our competitors but that's nothing to do with it. Firstly, we have paid the penalty for the uneven quality of Serie A. Playing Juventus or Milan or Inter will always be as big a match as any in Europe, but some of the other teams don't test you the same way. Then you get caught out in the Champions League, where each and every game is a tough one against the best sides in Europe. Secondly, the flow of TV money over the past few years has helped clubs in other countries – like Spain and England – to spend big on players in a way only Italian clubs once did. They caught up and overtook us. Finally, foreign clubs are much better prepared now in tactical terms. Italian clubs always used to be better organised, tactically, but that's no longer the case.

Is that why Italy's national team are struggling?

I can't talk about that because I have no particular ambitions to play for Italy any more. I played for my country more than 50 times, for the youth teams, for the Under-21s and for the Olympic team. But for some reason I never got a game for the seniors, even though I was No 2 at the Euro 2000 finals. Last season both the fans and the media rated me the best goalkeeper in Serie A but [national coach Giovanni] Trapattoni ignored me for the World Cup. So, when he picked me for the friendly against Slovenia in August, I said I wasn't interested. I have my professional pride. Anyway, whether Trapattoni goes or stays, Gianluigi Buffon and Francesco Toldo will stay as one and two.

How do the three of you get on?

Well enough – particularly with Toldo, who was just coming through in the *primavera* team when I was first choice at Milan. In fact, the only goalkeeper I have ever had any problems with was Sebastiano Rossi and, to be honest, he had problems with everyone!

Do you want to see out your career with Roma?

Not necessarily. I'm just 33, which is still a reasonable age for a goalkeeper. I have spent all my career, 16 years so far, in Italian football and I would like to try something different while I am still good enough. Perhaps England. I love the match atmosphere in the English grounds, and the lifestyle suits my character. Carlo Cudicini at Chelsea has told me a lot of good things about playing in England. My wife and I have a five-year-old daughter, so it would be wonderful for her as well.

Where did you learn the game?

When I was a kid Italian children attended school from 8.30 in the morning until lunchtime at 12.30. It's changed now. They go through until four or half past four. But in my time we couldn't wait to finish school and then get back out to play football. We played on waste land and in the streets – right through until seven or eight at night. Kids couldn't do it today, of course, because of the traffic, even if they wanted to. Kids today have Playstations and all the other computer games and television and videos. Now it's easier to watch football – on the screen, one way or another – than to play it. TV has stood the game on its head for today's kids. I can't say it's wrong. It's just different.

Tell me about your early career, starting with your first club, Monza.

I turned pro when I was 17 and I had been at Monza two years when Milan signed me as their No 3 keeper. It was a fantastic time at Milan. Silvio Berlusconi had bought the club only a few years earlier and brought in wonderful players like Marco Van Basten and the other Dutchmen. I never played for the first team then, but all the players trained together and it was a wonderful feeling to think that you were up on the same level as all those great players. The tactical organisation of the coach, Arrigo Sacchi, was perfect, and so was the players' attitude. They may have been superstars but they didn't have airs and graces. They wanted to work, and work hard, every day of the week.

You didn't get a look in with the first team...

No, the first-choice keeper was Giovanni Galli, Italy's No 1 at the 1986 World Cup. In two years I didn't get one game with the first team so I went out on loan to Cesena and then Modena. Italian football has had a loan system longer than any other country and it works well. It's even more important now there are so few restrictions on foreigners. The big clubs need to give their young players experience and sending them out on loan is the only way.

Is the loan system especially important for goalkeepers?

It is. If you are a defender or a midfielder you have four chances of getting a game in one position or another. But a team can field only one goalkeeper. Also we go on much longer than other players. You just about never see a young Italian goalkeeper breaking through. Look at Buffon, who had to do the provincial rounds before going to Inter this year. Or Cudicini, who had to leave Italy altogether.

"The Roma fans wanted a flamboyant goalkeeper who threw himself around the box, waved and gestured to the crowd. But that's not me. I have tunnel vision in a game, it's a serious business"

You had a sensational debut for Milan eventually, didn't you?

Yes, I went back to Milan in 1991 and made my debut – of all matches – in the derby against Inter. Rossi was injured in training the day before the game. Even better, we won 1-0. I felt perfectly calm before the match, in control, but now looking back, I think it was because I didn't understand how big the experience was!

And Fabio Capello was your coach...

Yes, as he is now at Roma, of course. He hasn't changed. He's very serious, very focused. He expects you to concentrate at the same level all the time whether in a match or in training in midweek. He also lets you know exactly what he's thinking. Capello is always out on the pitch with us in training. He wants to know every little thing about his players. He stays close to us physically so he can get close to us mentally. You can't dispute his methods when you look at what he has achieved.

So what went wrong?

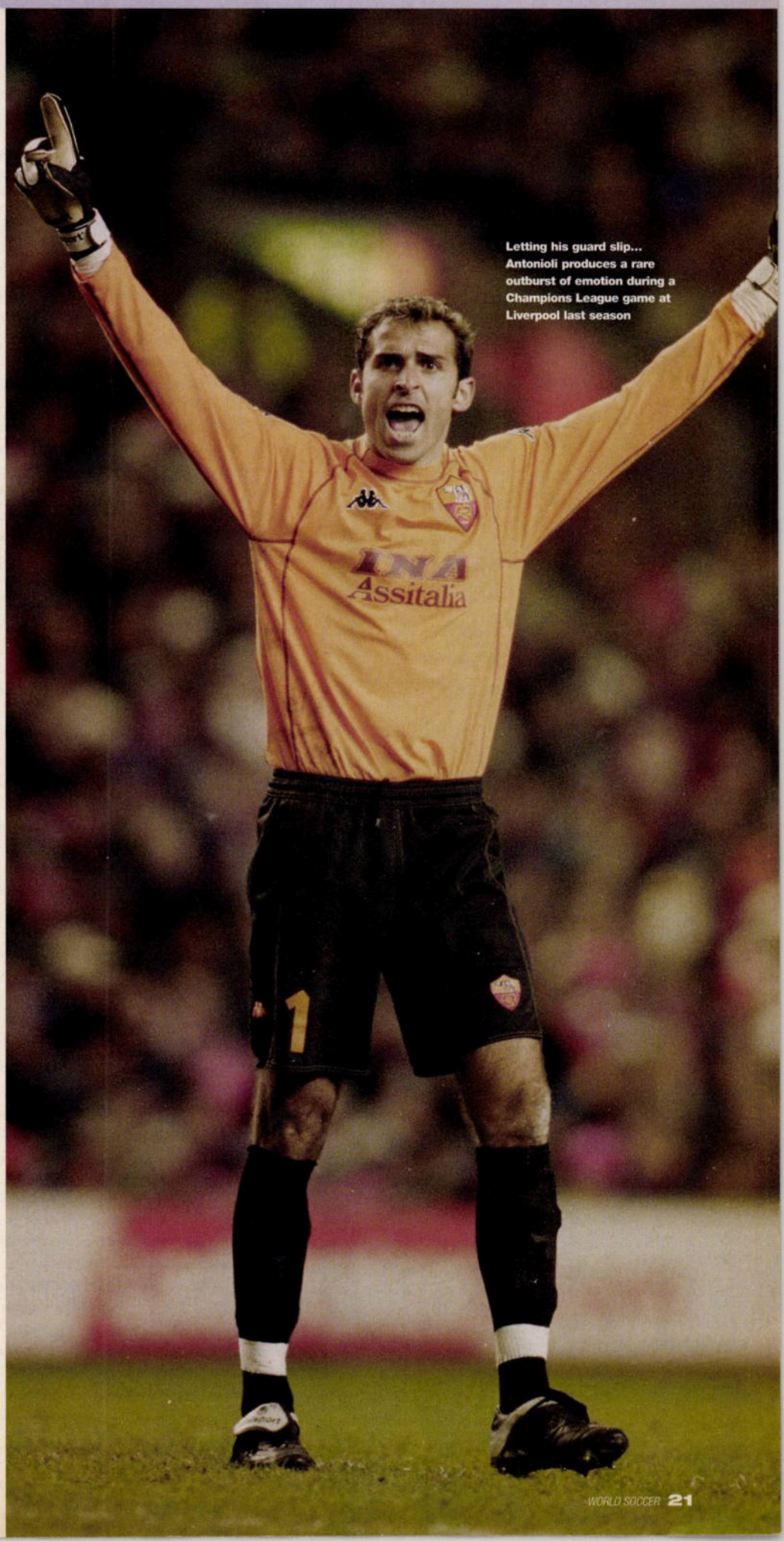
In 1992-93 I got a bad injury to my left knee. I

couldn't blame anyone. It happened in training when I was working on my own. Just one of those things – and at the time I was Milan's No 1. I missed the rest of the season and then, when I got fit again, I was back down at No 3. That was no good to me, I wanted to play, so Milan loaned me to Pisa. At the end of the season, Milan didn't need me back so I went out on loan again with Reggiana, and then Milan sold me to Bologna.

But they were down in Serie B, weren't they?
I didn't mind that because I was so desperate to play. Also, the coach was Renzo Ulivieri, who had been my boss at Modena and with the same goalkeepers' coach in Sergio Buso. Anyway, in my first season we got promoted and we went on to reach the semi-finals of the UEFA Cup.

You had injury problems after that...
Yes, I got another bad knee injury and missed all the 1997-98 season. Then I played one more season before Capello came for me for Roma. The funny thing was, I could have gone to Roma a year earlier but I turned them down because Zdenek Zeman was the coach and I didn't like his way with goalkeepers. He wants them to be goal-sweepers, playing halfway up the pitch as if they're [Colombia's Rene] Higuita. That's not my style. I'm a box keeper. We have had some great years – particularly winning the championship in 2001. But it took a long time before I built up a relationship with the fans.

Why didn't they take to you?
A couple of reasons. Before Roma signed me, the president, Franco Sensi, had told the fans he was bringing in Buffon or Toldo. When I arrived instead the fans were probably disappointed so they took it out on me. Also, it's an Italian thing. I come from the north and the people in Rome are different. Much more open and emotional. They wanted a flamboyant keeper who threw himself around the penalty box and waved and gestured to the crowd. But that's not me. I have tunnel vision in a game. I have no time for frivolities. It's a serious business. I've seen on the video that I made a clenched fist gesture after I saved Mihajlovic's penalty in the derby – which is most unlike me. But it wasn't for the fans, it was for my team-mates, to encourage them to hold on for the draw. Of course, right now, after that penalty save and the win in Madrid, the fans and I are getting on fine.



Letting his guard slip... Antonioli produces a rare outburst of emotion during a Champions League game at Liverpool last season

Pape Bouba DIOP

An eye for England

Senegal's World Cup hero has Premiership ambitions

IN THE spring of 2000 two Senegalese footballers were flying home at the end of the European season. On the same plane was the African nation's new national team manager, Frenchman Bruno Metsu.

He knew one of the players, Henri Camara, but not the other. Camara took the initiative and said to Metsu: "This is a friend of mine who plays in Switzerland and who would do a great job for the national team if you want to try him."

Thus Metsu first met Pape Bouba Diop, who duly became one of the backbone members of the Senegal team that shocked the international game with their sensational World Cup campaign in South Korea and Japan.

Metsu took Camara's advice. In June 2000 he included Diop in his line-up against Togo. He stayed around, right through the World Cup finals, including the opening match which sent Diop's name and fame around the world after he scored Senegal's sensational winning goal against holders France.

"Manchester United have been watching me regularly but what happens next is down to my agents"

"The key to our success at the World Cup was our spirit and our refusal to be beaten, either in an individual tackle or in a match," says Diop. "We went to the finals expecting to learn a lot but also confident that, if we had a chance to show what we could do, then we were good enough and ready to take it."

That has been the story of Diop's life. He was born in the Senegalese capital of Dakar on November 10, 1978. Football was a natural enjoyment and Diop turned semi-professional in 1997 with top local club Diaraf. His height led to him being played in defence at first, but in due course he developed enough pace, skill and eye for a goal to make him more useful in midfield. He soon earned not only a place in Senegal's Olympic team but also his commanding character secured the captain's armband.

It was in that settled midfield role that Diop was offered a contract by Swiss Third Division club Vevey in 1999. He spent one year there then moved into the top flight with Neuchatel Xamax. There was a connection between the clubs. Former Swiss international Alain Geiger was the coach at Xamax and his brother, agent Nicolas Geiger, had arranged Diop's original move to Vevey. Fans and media thought Diop too slow to make the grade but the Geigers recognised his natural talent and believed European training and attitude could bring out the best in him.

In due course Xamax even suggested he should apply to register as a political refugee to free up another place for a foreign player, but Diop – while not harbouring any ambitions to play for Senegal – was too busy improving his game to sort out the paperwork.

In January 2001 Xamax sold him to record champions Grasshopper. He helped them win the Swiss League then transferred, exactly a year later, to French club Lens, where he joined a Senegalese community that already featured defender Ferdinand Coly, fellow midfielder Pape Sarr and attacking star El Hadji Diouf.

Lens' scouting boss Jean-Luc Lamarche was impressed by Diop after watching him play for Grasshopper against Porto in the Champions League. By that time Senegal had already surprised African football by qualifying for the World Cup finals for the first time.

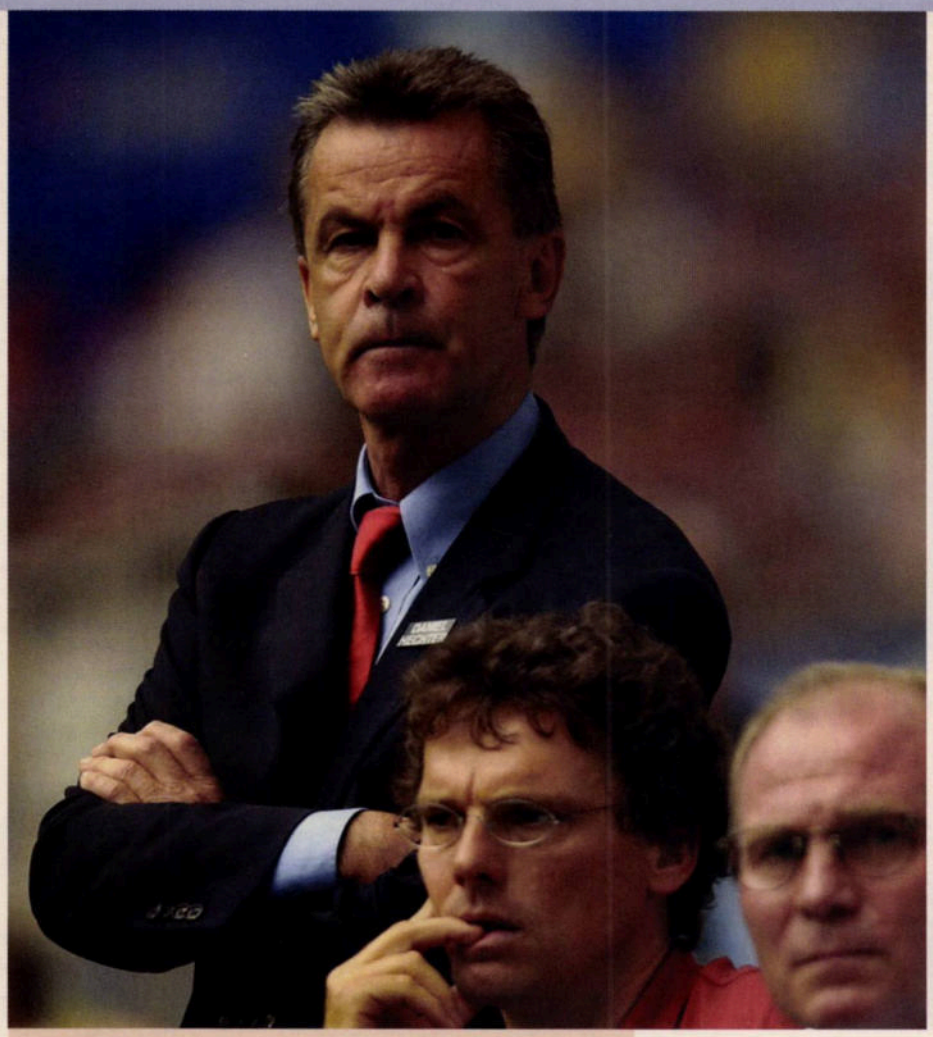
Not surprisingly, a string of agents were queueing at the door to try to entice the Senegalese players to join new clubs. Perhaps surprisingly, Diop decided to stay with Lens – though that does not mean he is short on ambition.

He believes he would be ideally suited to the Premiership. Diop says: "It's been my dream to play in the English League ever since I was a kid. I've had a couple of offers, though nothing came of them. Still, I'm only 23. I can wait."

For how long is an open question. At least Lens will not be out of pocket, having persuaded Diop last January to sign a contract that ties him to the club – in theory – until the summer of 2007. But the spies are out, as Diop well knows. He says: "Manchester United have been watching me regularly. They asked me to show them what I could do. I said: 'No problem.' But what happens next is down to my agents. All my efforts are put into playing as well as I can."

Just in case potential purchasers need a reference, they can always call Metsu, who says: "I knew once he got into the team he would never be out of it. He's not only terrific at winning the ball but very quick to seek attacking opportunities. With him and Salif Diao in midfield I had no worries about going up against Vieira and Petit at the World Cup. He's that good."

Keir Radnedge



Ottmar HITZFELD

The Munich fear festival

Concerns grow for the Bayern coach after his side's Champions League exit

THE REAL test starts now for Ottmar Hitzfeld in the wake of Bayern Munich's embarrassingly loud crash out of the Champions League.

Keeping a team at the top of the tree is one thing, pulling on the reins to halt a dash towards disaster is something else. Managers and coaches accustomed to success are not always best equipped for the downhill battle.

Most irritating for Hitzfeld must be the knowledge that expectations were raised unnecessarily high before the start of the season from within the Bayern camp. His high-profile bosses – president Franz Beckenbauer, vice-president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and general manager Uli Hoeness – boasted about having assembled the "best squad in Bayern's history".

Assembling the talent is one thing; turning out an effective, balanced team is something else. Hitzfeld might usefully compare notes with Real Madrid's Vicente Del Bosque. Being handed the likes of Michael Ballack and Ze Roberto is fine; filling the midfield void left by Stefan Effenberg is something else.

Hitzfeld has pulled no punches. "The way we've played in the Champions League this season has been disappointing and embarrassing," he says. "We've caused great damage to the image of Bayern Munich with the way we've performed. Some of the team have found the pressure too much. They haven't been able to handle it. I'll have to think about some of the players. As for me, this is one of the most difficult moments of my career."

Hitzfeld had felt the heat of boardroom criticism even before Bayern's Champions League exit. Like his friend Sir Alex Ferguson, he need only point to his achievements to justify his independence. But winning the Champions League, World Club Cup and German League titles with both Bayern and Borussia Dortmund is a matter of history.

Hitzfeld blames the opening upset against Deportivo La Coruna for much of what followed. He says: "It was costly not only in terms of points but also in terms of team spirit and confidence. After that we needed time to get our heads together. But that's difficult if not impossible in the Champions League because the matches come thick and fast and always against top-quality opposition.

"When we lost at home to Milan there were signs that we were sorting ourselves out, but I suppose it was already too late. We dominated for much of the game but didn't take our chances – which is something you cannot afford at this level. Ballack had several efforts that were either blocked or just off target."

That would suggest Bayern needed a little luck. But luck is not a concept Hitzfeld acknowledges. Realistically, he says: "In front of goal it's a matter only of efficiency. You cannot afford to have plenty of the ball in midfield but not create enough chances. That's not logical. Also, one of the lessons the Milan game underlined is that we also have to be more efficient in defence.

●"We've caused great damage to the club's image. Some of the team have found the pressure too much to handle"

"Football matches under pressure can be very complex affairs. It's not easy for players to remember everything with a cool head when they get caught up in the rhythm of the match."

Hitzfeld is not given to excuses and he had little time for Rummenigge's assessment that the early-season training schedule had been too hard considering the high number of matches demanded of players, many of whom had enjoyed very little summer rest because of the World Cup.

"The philosophy within this club," says Hitzfeld, "is that everyone works as hard as he can – whether it is in the boardroom, or the offices or in training or out on the pitch in a match. My responsibility is to balance the amount of work we undertake in training – and it's a difficult balancing act. What I want here are footballers, not machines.

"Anyway, it is no secret: if you want to be successful then you want to play more games than anyone else. It's not success that makes players tired, it's losing matches that weighs them down."

Now, in the wake of Bayern's Champions League exit, how effectively can Hitzfeld lift the weight from his players' shoulders – and how soon?

Keir Radnedge

Gavin Hamilton reports on the progress of Wales under manager Mark Hughes

Sparking a revival

"BELLEEEE-SEEEEEE-MO!" bellowed the Millennium stadium announcer seconds after the whistle had blown on a famous victory for Wales. The 2-1 defeat of a disheartened Italy team was one of the most significant results in the history of the Welsh national side. It took them to the top of Euro 2004 qualifying Group 9, and so it was understandable that celebrations got a little out of hand. Especially when news filtered through that England had been held 2-2 at home by Macedonia.

The win over Italy followed an outstanding 2-0 victory in Finland in the opening qualifier and creditable performances in friendlies against Germany (a 1-0 win), Argentina, the Czech Republic and Croatia (all draws).

However, manager Mark Hughes remains cautious about his team's chances of reaching the Euro 2004 finals. "I still don't believe we are favourites to qualify; we have only played two games and we must keep our cool and keep working," Hughes said after the Italy game. "But I don't think many teams would have coped with us the way we played tonight."

Hughes was a member of the Wales team that was a penalty kick away from qualifying for the 1994 World Cup. That side contained Hughes (in midfield), Ian Rush, Dean Saunders and Neville Southall.

This time around, things could be different. For Wales, everything has come together at the right time: the right players, playing for the right coach, with the right backing from the Welsh FA.

It is three years since Hughes, then only 35 and still playing for Everton, took over following Bobby Gould's departure. His was a low-key appointment, since the FAW could not afford the pay demands of candidates such as Terry Venables.

The former Manchester United forward is the first to admit he was thrown in at the deep end. "I'd never even managed a club side before," he says. "So it was a case of learning on my feet. It was difficult to begin with, for both me and the players. I went from sitting among the players, criticising the manager, to actually being the manager!"

Despite his combative qualities as a player (hence the nickname 'Sparky'), Hughes was a quiet figure off the pitch. "I was always a player who thought deeply about the game," he admits. "I've been lucky enough to play under many great managers [Alex Ferguson, Glenn Hoddle, Ruud Gullit]. I'd like to think I've taken something from each of them."

Driving force...Hughes has fostered a great team spirit

The Old Trafford connection remains strong. Ex-Man United youth coach Eric Harrison is Hughes's number two. Together they have fostered a team spirit among the players reminiscent of that achieved by Jack Charlton with the Republic of Ireland.

"Mark encouraged an atmosphere similar to that we had been used to at our respective clubs, and the players responded to it," says midfielder Robbie Savage. "Whenever we meet up now, the manager lets us have a night out together, and that has created a special bond."

Like Charlton, Hughes has succeeded in building a team that is greater than the sum of its parts. Against Italy, defender Danny Gabbidon of English Second Division side Cardiff rose to the occasion and marked Alessandro Del Piero and Vincenzo Montella out of the game.

Unlike Charlton, though, Hughes has not resorted to playing a long-ball game, nor to discovering players born in England with Welsh grandparents. Instead, he has been helped by the emergence of some exciting young players, notably Craig Bellamy and Simon Davies. The duo have given Hughes new options in attack and, crucially, taken the heat off Manchester United winger Ryan Giggs.

'I don't think many teams would have coped with us the way we played against Italy'
Mark Hughes

Exciting...Bellamy

In an international career spanning more than a decade, Giggs has played 38 times for his country, but rarely in friendlies. The stop-start nature of his performances for Wales has often frustrated fans, who expected him to win games singlehandedly.

"I'm sure Ryan can see that we're on the verge of something special here, as do all the players," says Savage. "He's feared throughout Europe, although we do have a number of unsung heroes too."

'Stop Giggs' can no longer be the gameplan for opponents. The Italians set out to mark Giggs out of the game, but were undone by some outstanding individual play by Davies and Bellamy, operating behind John Hartson, who gave an exemplary display as the lone target man.

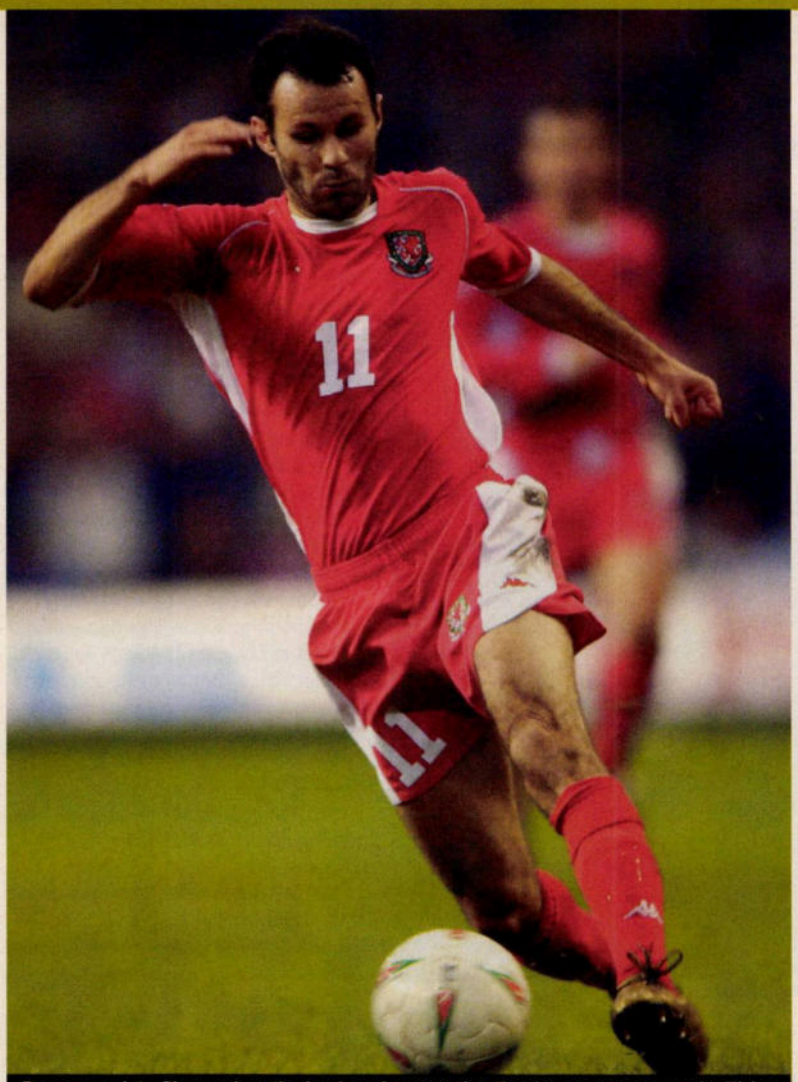
Off the pitch, the national team are benefiting from the progressive approach of the FAW. Ticket prices at the magnificent Millennium stadium have been kept low (£10 for adults, £5 for children), ensuring 70,000 sell-out crowds.

The English FA could do worse than follow the FAW's example when it comes to pre-match entertainment. Instead of the Wembley DJ, who seems to follow England around like a bad smell, the Cardiff crowd were treated to rousing performances from the Manic Street Preachers, opera singer Bryn Terfel and the RAF St Athan band playing 'Men of Harlech'. The decibel level was sent yet higher when John Charles, the greatest Welsh footballer of all time, was paraded on the pitch.

The FAW has also acceded to Hughes's demands for greater professionalism in team preparation. "We are now looked after better than we have ever been before," says Savage. "We get the best possible treatment, in terms of kit, food and hotels, and that makes all the difference. Without these improvements, I doubt we'd be where we are today."

Forthcoming games, away and then home to Azerbaijan, give Wales the chance to extend their lead at the top of Group 9. Neither Hughes nor any of his players were born when Wales last played in a major tournament, the 1958 World Cup, but everything seems in place for the current generation to emulate that team.

"Although it was long before my time, I'm well aware of that Wales side because they're the only one to have really achieved anything," says Davies. "But this team has the potential to be just as good. We haven't been respected in the past but that is no longer the case. Nearly all the players have Premiership experience and that counts for so much. We don't fear anyone. I've never known such a buzz around the national team."



Pressure point...Giggs enjoys the burden of expectation that he can turn games for Wales

Giggs: "Welsh and proud of it"

RYAN GIGGS gets irritated when people suggest that he does not take his international career with Wales seriously.

"It still bugs me when people ask if I wished I'd played for England," says the Manchester United winger. "It's the question that's bugged me more than any other over the last 10 years.

"I'm Welsh, end of story. My parents are Welsh, my grandparents are Welsh. The mix-up came from the fact that I played for England schoolboys. That's what confuses people. But I'd rather go through my career without qualifying for a major championship than play for a country in which I wasn't born or one that had nothing to do with my parents. That's just stupid."

Giggs, born in Cardiff to a Welsh father but raised in Manchester by his mother, has faced pressure at club and country level throughout his career. "I'm expected to turn games, both at Man United and when I play for Wales," he says. "But it's something that I'm used to and something I enjoy."

Nevertheless, he admits that his performances for Wales have been frustrating at times. "There may be an element of trying too hard sometimes, but at international football you've only got one crack at it," he says. "You go away and come back a month later, so you try as hard as you can, maybe a bit more than you try for your club."

The emergence of other talents such as Simon Davies and Craig Bellamy has at last taken the pressure off Giggs. "I'd like to be scoring more for Wales but we've got so many players now who can score, five or six who are scoring regular."

Qualifying for Euro 2004 is a realistic target for Giggs. "For me to qualify for a major finals would be massive because I've never done it and the country hasn't done it since 1958, and that's too long, especially with the players that we've had in that time. With the players we've got now, it would be disappointing if we couldn't do it. We've definitely got a chance."

The Squad

GOALKEEPERS			Caps	Goals
Paul JONES	18.04.67	Southampton	28	0
Mark CROSSLEY	16.06.69	Middlesbrough	5	0
Darren WARD	11.05.74	Nottingham Forest	2	0
DEFENDERS				
Mark DELANEY	13.05.76	Aston Villa	18	0
Gary SPEED	08.09.69	Newcastle	70	4
Andy MELVILLE	29.11.68	Fulham	54	3
Danny GABBIDON	08.08.79	Cardiff	4	0
Rhys WESTON	27.10.80	Cardiff	2	0
Robert PAGE	09.09.74	Sheffield United	25	0
Darren BARNARD	30.11.71	Grimsby	17	0
MIDFIELDERS				
Mark PEMBRIDGE	29.11.70	Everton	45	6
Robbie SAVAGE	18.10.74	Birmingham	27	2
Simon DAVIES	23.10.79	Tottenham	11	3
Andy JOHNSON	02.05.74	West Brom	9	0
Carl ROBINSON	13.10.76	Portsmouth	9	0
Paul EVANS	01.09.74	Bradford	2	0
Paul TROLLOPE	03.06.72	Northampton	7	0
FORWARDS				
Craig BELLAMY	13.07.79	Newcastle	18	5
Ryan GIGGS	29.11.73	Manchester United	38	7
John HARTSON	05.04.75	Celtic	32	7
Nathan BLAKE	27.01.72	Wolves	23	4
Gareth TAYLOR	25.02.73	Burnley	10	0
Robert EARNSHAW	06.04.81	Cardiff	2	1

HOW THEY LINE UP

Hughes favours a back four, but has altered his midfield and forward line depending on the opposition. Against Italy, Hartson operated as a lone striker, with Giggs and Bellamy in support, making it 4-3-3 with the ball, but 4-5-1 when possession was lost. Jones is first-choice keeper, with Delaney at right-back, Melville and new boy Gabbidon in the centre, with Page another option, and captain Speed at left-back, a change from club position of central midfield. Pembridge can also play at left-back, but is more likely to be used with Savage as the defensive midfield screen. That allows Giggs (left), Davies (centre or right) and Bellamy to push up behind Hartson. Earnshaw, a pacy, livewire striker, and Blake are other attacking options.

Magnificent...Cardiff's Millennium stadium

Keir Radnedge reports on the first major coaching casualty of the qualifying campaign

McCarthy quits as Irish falter

THE shadow of the absent Roy Keane continued to cast an ever longer shadow on Mick McCarthy. The Republic of Ireland manager resigned in early November after the criticism became too much. "It was my suggestion to go, no one else's," said McCarthy. "Some of the negativity directed at me was affecting the players."

Media opinion in Ireland had been fiercely divided over McCarthy following his dispute with Keane, his captain, before last summer's World Cup finals. Relations between the two men had remained poor, with Keane continuing to draw support from certain sections of the media.

McCarthy's resignation followed Ireland's defeats in their two opening Euro 2004 qualifiers, the latest a 2-1 home loss to Switzerland, with Fabio Celestini grabbing a last-minute winner.

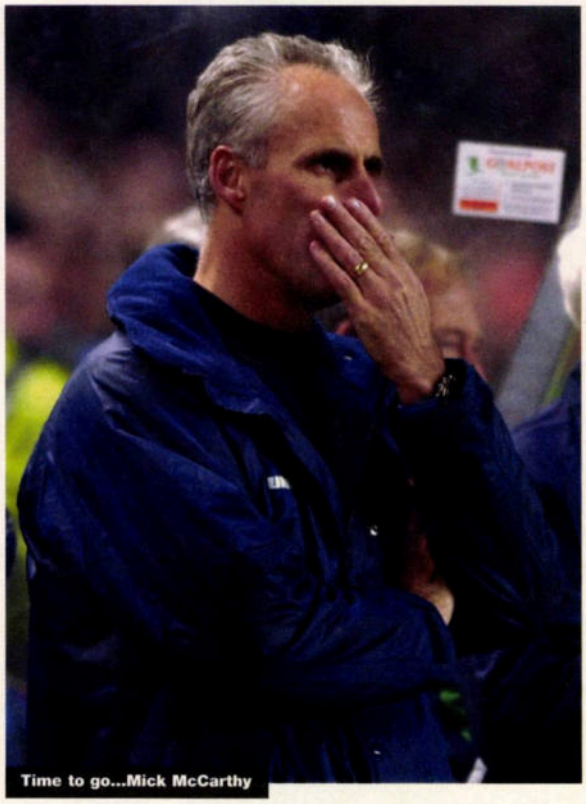
The win in Dublin took the Swiss to the top of **Group 10**, while Russia's match in Georgia was abandoned after a goalless first half because of a floodlight failure. Russia followed up by defeating Albania 4-1 with two goals from Sergei Semak.

France captain Marcel Desailly celebrated his 100th cap by leading the European champions to a 5-0 thrashing of Slovenia in **Group 1**, Fulham striker Steve Marlet scoring twice. The French followed up by winning comfortably, 4-0, in Malta.

In **Group 2** Steffen Iversen's 83rd-minute goal brought Norway a surprise 1-0 win away to Romania, who took out their disappointment on Luxembourg, winning 7-0 in the Grand Duchy with a hat-trick from Cosmin Contra. Norway maintained their progress when Claus Lundekvam scored his country's 1000th international goal in a 2-0 defeat of Bosnia. Denmark left it late before beating Luxembourg 2-0, the goals coming from Milan's Jon Dahl Tomasson and Schalke striker Ebbe Sand.

Austria briefly went top of **Group 3** after winning 2-0 in Belarus but then conceded the leadership to Holland, who won 3-0 in Vienna. The Czech Republic are breathing down Dutch necks, however, after winning 2-0 in the Moldovan rain and by the same score at home to Belarus.

Hungary proved a happy surprise in **Group 4** after years of gloom. They very nearly beat Sweden in Stockholm, having gone ahead early through Krisztian Kenesei. Only a late strike from Zlatan Ibrahimovic earned the hosts a point. The Hungarians then went top of the group after a hat-trick from substitute Zoltan Gera secured them a 3-0 win over San Marino.


Time to go...Mick McCarthy

Latvia maintained their excellent start with a surprise 1-0 win away to Poland.

Scotland recorded a first competitive victory for embattled coach Berti Vogts, beating an injury-weakened Iceland 2-0 in Reykjavik in **Group 5**. The Faroe Islands, who had very nearly beaten Scotland in September, showed none of that grit as they went down 2-0 in Lithuania, who then slumped 3-0 themselves to Iceland.

Group favourites Germany looked less than impressive when beating the Faroe Islands 2-1 in Hannover. A second-half winner from Miroslav Klose and the reflexes of keeper Oliver Kahn ensured a victory that spared coach Rudi Voller's blushes.

In **Group 6** Ruben Baraja's two goals helped leaders Spain to a comfortable 3-0 home win over Northern Ireland, who then earned their first point of the qualifiers with a 0-0 draw at home to Ukraine. Leonid Buriak's men got off the winning mark with a 2-0 home defeat of Greece.

That result sparked the first serious questions in Athens about Otto Rehhagel's future as coach, after 15 months in charge. The pressure was eased when a double from Demis Nikolaidis brought a 2-0 win over Armenia. The Greek newspapers called it a "kiss of life".

In **Group 7** England set off in the qualifiers with a 2-1 win over Slovakia in Bratislava, having gone 1-0 down. But the comeback goals from David Beckham and Michael Owen were overshadowed by fan trouble. Two England fans were shot by panicking city-centre security guards the night before the game, which was marred by trouble at half-time among England fans and racist chanting from the Slovak crowd.

England hit problems of a different sort in Southampton, where they were held 2-2 by Macedonia after blunders by keeper David Seaman – beaten direct from a corner by Artim Sakiri – and centre-back Sol Campbell.

Macedonia had lost only narrowly, 2-1, at home to Turkey four days earlier. They started brightly, taking an early lead through Vlatko Grozdanovski, and better finishing might even have seen them spring a surprise. Turkey owed their win to goals from Okan Buruk and Nihat Kahveci.

The Turks easily maintained their 100 per cent record with a 5-0 win over Liechtenstein.

Bulgaria are another side yet to drop a point after beating Croatia 2-0 and Andorra 2-1 to stay top of **Group 8**. They were as impressive against the Croats as they were incoherent against the Andorrans. The Pyreneean minnows had earlier lost only 1-0 at home to Belgium, who appear to be still suffering a World Cup hangover. Wesley Sonck scored the winner against Andorra and then the only goal of a win in Estonia.

'Bulgaria, now with three wins out of three, were as impressive against the Croats as they were incoherent against the Andorrans'

Italy's wretched form continued in **Group 9**, following on from their dismal World Cup. Coach Giovanni Trapattoni, already under pressure, saw his men held at home by Yugoslavia and then go under, 2-1, against a spirited, revived Wales in Cardiff. The winner, a second-half goal from Craig Bellamy, raised further speculation about Trapattoni's future. It was the *Azzurri's* fifth loss in their last 10 games.

The writing had been on the wall for Italy after they stumbled against Yugoslavia the previous Saturday. They rescued a 1-1 draw only with a trademark free-kick from Alessandro Del Piero. The Slavs had taken an early lead through veteran striker Predrag Mijatovic, now playing out his club career in the Spanish Second Division with Levante after being freed by the bankruptcy of Fiorentina.

Yugoslavia followed up their draw in Italy with a 2-0 win over Finland, the goals coming from Darko Kovacevic and Sinisa Mihajlovic.

Wales next travel to Azerbaijan, whose manager Vagif Sadygov quit after a 3-0 defeat away to Finland.

QUALIFYING RESULTS

Group 1

France, Slovenia, Israel, Cyprus, Malta

07.09.02 .....Cyprus-France 1-2
07.09.02 .....Slovenia-Malta 3-0
12.10.02 .....France-Slovenia 5-0
12.10.02 .....Malta-Israel 0-2
16.10.02 .....Malta-France 0-4
20.11.02 .....Cyprus-Malta
29.03.03 .....Cyprus-Israel
29.03.03 .....France-Malta
02.04.03 .....Israel-France
02.04.03 .....Slovenia-Cyprus
30.04.03 .....Israel-Cyprus
30.04.03 .....Malta-Slovenia
07.06.03 .....Israel-Slovenia
07.06.03 .....Malta-Cyprus
06.09.03 .....France-Cyprus
06.09.03 .....Slovenia-Israel
10.09.03 .....Israel-Malta
10.09.03 .....Slovenia-France
11.10.03 .....Cyprus-Slovenia
11.10.03 .....France-Israel

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	3	0	0	11	1	9
Israel	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Slovenia	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
Cyprus	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Malta	3	0	0	3	0	9	0

Group 2

Romania, Denmark, Norway, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Luxembourg

07.09.02 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Romania 0-3
07.09.02 .....Norway-Denmark 2-2
12.10.02 .....Denmark-Luxembourg 2-0
12.10.02 .....Romania-Norway 0-1
16.10.02 .....Luxembourg-Romania 0-7
16.10.02 .....Norway-Bosnia-Herzegovina 2-0
29.03.03 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Luxembourg
29.03.03 .....Romania-Denmark
02.04.03 .....Denmark-Bosnia-Herzegovina
02.04.03 .....Luxembourg-Norway
07.06.03 .....Denmark-Norway
07.06.03 .....Romania-Bosnia-Herzegovina
11.06.03 .....Luxembourg-Denmark
11.06.03 .....Norway-Romania
06.09.03 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Norway
06.09.03 .....Romania-Luxembourg
10.09.03 .....Denmark-Romania
10.09.03 .....Luxembourg-Bosnia-Herzegovina
11.10.03 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Denmark
11.10.03 .....Norway-Luxembourg

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Romania	3	2	0	1	10	1	6
Denmark	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Bosnia-Herz	2	0	0	2	0	5	0
Luxembourg	2	0	0	2	0	9	0

Group 3

Czech Republic, Holland, Austria, Belarus, Moldova

07.09.02 .....Austria-Moldova 2-0
07.09.02 .....Holland-Belarus 3-0
12.10.02 .....Belarus-Austria 0-2
12.10.02 .....Moldova-Czech Republic 0-2
16.10.02 .....Austria-Holland 0-3
16.10.02 .....Czech Republic-Belarus 2-0
29.03.03 .....Belarus-Moldova
29.03.03 .....Holland-Czech Republic
02.04.03 .....Czech Republic-Austria
02.04.03 .....Moldova-Holland
07.06.03 .....Belarus-Holland
07.06.03 .....Moldova-Austria
11.06.03 .....Austria-Belarus
11.06.03 .....Czech Republic-Moldova
06.09.03 .....Belarus-Czech Republic
06.09.03 .....Holland-Austria
10.09.03 .....Czech Republic-Holland
10.09.03 .....Moldova-Belarus
11.10.03 .....Austria-Czech Republic
11.10.03 .....Holland-Moldova

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
Czech Republic	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Austria	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Moldova	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
Belarus	3	0	0	3	0	7	0

Group 4

Sweden, Poland, Hungary, Latvia, San Marino

07.09.02 .....Latvia-Sweden 0-0
07.09.02 .....San Marino-Poland 0-2
12.10.02 .....Poland-Latvia 0-1
12.10.02 .....Sweden-Hungary 1-1
16.10.02 .....Hungary-San Marino 3-0
20.11.02 .....San Marino-Latvia
29.03.03 .....Poland-Hungary
02.04.03 .....Hungary-Sweden
02.04.03 .....Poland-San Marino
30.04.03 .....Latvia-San Marino
07.06.03 .....Hungary-Latvia
07.06.03 .....San Marino-Sweden
11.06.03 .....San Marino-Hungary
11.06.03 .....Sweden-Poland
06.09.03 .....Latvia-Poland
06.09.03 .....Sweden-San Marino
10.09.03 .....Latvia-Hungary
10.09.03 .....Poland-Sweden
11.10.03 .....Hungary-Poland
11.10.03 .....Sweden-Latvia

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Latvia	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Poland	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Sweden	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
San Marino	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Group 5

Germany, Scotland, Iceland, Lithuania, Faroe Islands

07.09.02 .....Faroe Islands-Scotland 2-2
07.09.02 .....Lithuania-Germany 0-2
12.10.02 .....Iceland-Scotland 0-2
12.10.02 .....Lithuania-Faroe Islands 2-0
16.10.02 .....Germany-Faroe Islands 2-1
16.10.02 .....Iceland-Lithuania 3-0
29.03.03 .....Germany-Lithuania
29.03.03 .....Scotland-Iceland
02.04.03 .....Lithuania-Scotland
07.06.03 .....Iceland-Faroe Islands
07.06.03 .....Scotland-Germany
11.06.03 .....Faroe Islands-Germany
11.06.03 .....Lithuania-Iceland
20.08.03 .....Faroe Islands-Iceland
06.09.03 .....Iceland-Germany
06.09.03 .....Scotland-Faroe Islands
10.09.03 .....Faroe Islands-Lithuania
10.09.03 .....Germany-Scotland
11.10.03 .....Germany-Iceland
11.10.03 .....Scotland-Lithuania

GROUP 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Scotland	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Iceland	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Lithuania	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Faroe Islands	3	0	1	2	3	6	1

Group 6

Spain, Ukraine, Greece, Northern Ireland, Armenia

07.09.02 .....Armenia-Ukraine 2-2
07.09.02 .....Greece-Spain 0-2
12.10.02 .....Spain-Northern Ireland 3-0
12.10.02 .....Ukraine-Greece 2-0
16.10.02 .....Greece-Armenia 2-0
16.10.02 .....Northern Ireland-Ukraine 0-0
29.03.03 .....Armenia-Northern Ireland
29.03.03 .....Ukraine-Spain
02.04.03 .....Northern Ireland-Greece
02.04.03 .....Spain-Armenia
07.06.03 .....Spain-Greece
07.06.03 .....Ukraine-Armenia
11.06.03 .....Greece-Ukraine
11.06.03 .....Northern Ireland-Spain
06.09.03 .....Armenia-Greece
06.09.03 .....Ukraine-Northern Ireland
10.09.03 .....Northern Ireland-Armenia
10.09.03 .....Spain-Ukraine
11.10.03 .....Armenia-Spain
11.10.03 .....Greece-Northern Ireland

GROUP 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Ukraine	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Greece	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Armenia	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Northern Ireland	2	0	1	1	0	3	1

Group 7

Turkey, England, Slovakia, Macedonia, Liechtenstein

07.09.02 .....Turkey-Slovakia 3-0
08.09.02 .....Liechtenstein-Macedonia 1-1
12.10.02 .....Macedonia-Turkey 1-2
12.10.02 .....Slovakia-England 1-2
16.10.02 .....England-Macedonia 2-2
16.10.02 .....Turkey-Liechtenstein 5-0
29.03.03 .....Liechtenstein-England
29.03.03 .....Macedonia-Slovakia
02.04.03 .....England-Turkey
02.04.03 .....Slovakia-Liechtenstein
07.06.03 .....Macedonia-Liechtenstein
07.06.03 .....Slovakia-Turkey
11.06.03 .....England-Slovakia
11.06.03 .....Turkey-Macedonia
06.09.03 .....Liechtenstein-Turkey
06.09.03 .....Macedonia-England
10.09.03 .....England-Liechtenstein
10.09.03 .....Slovakia-Macedonia
11.10.03 .....Liechtenstein-Slovakia
11.10.03 .....Turkey-England

GROUP 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	3	3	0	0	10	1	9
England	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Macedonia	3	0	2	1	4	5	2
Liechtenstein	2	0	1	1	1	6	1
Slovakia	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Group 8

Belgium, Croatia, Bulgaria, Estonia, Andorra

07.09.02 .....Belgium-Bulgaria 0-2
07.09.02 .....Croatia-Estonia 0-0
12.10.02 .....Andorra-Belgium 0-1
12.10.02 .....Bulgaria-Croatia 2-0
16.10.02 .....Bulgaria-Andorra 2-1
16.10.02 .....Estonia-Belgium 0-1
29.03.03 .....Croatia-Belgium
02.04.03 .....Croatia-Andorra
02.04.03 .....Estonia-Bulgaria
30.04.03 .....Andorra-Estonia
07.06.03 .....Bulgaria-Belgium
07.06.03 .....Estonia-Andorra
11.06.03 .....Belgium-Andorra
11.06.03 .....Estonia-Croatia
06.09.03 .....Andorra-Croatia
06.09.03 .....Bulgaria-Estonia
10.09.03 .....Andorra-Bulgaria
10.09.03 .....Belgium-Croatia
11.10.03 .....Belgium-Estonia
11.10.03 .....Croatia-Bulgaria

GROUP 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	3	3	0	0	6	1	9
Belgium	3	2	0	1	2	2	6
Estonia	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Croatia	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Andorra	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

Group 9

Italy, Yugoslavia, Finland, Wales, Azerbaijan

07.09.02 .....Azerbaijan-Italy 0-2
07.09.02 .....Finland-Wales 0-2
12.10.02 .....Finland-Azerbaijan 3-0
12.10.02 .....Italy-Yugoslavia 1-1
16.10.02 .....Wales-Italy 2-1
16.10.02 .....Yugoslavia-Finland 2-0
20.11.02 .....Azerbaijan-Wales
12.02.03 .....Yugoslavia-Azerbaijan
29.03.03 .....Italy-Finland
29.03.03 .....Wales-Azerbaijan
02.04.03 .....Yugoslavia-Wales
07.06.03 .....Finland-Yugoslavia
11.06.03 .....Azerbaijan-Yugoslavia
11.06.03 .....Finland-Italy
06.09.03 .....Azerbaijan-Finland
06.09.03 .....Italy-Wales
10.09.03 .....Wales-Finland
10.09.03 .....Yugoslavia-Italy
11.10.03 .....Italy-Azerbaijan
11.10.03 .....Wales-Yugoslavia

GROUP 9

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Yugoslavia	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Italy	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Finland	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Azerbaijan	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Group 10

Rep Ireland, Russia, Switzerland, Georgia, Albania

07.09.02 .....Russia-Rep Ireland 4-2
08.09.02 .....Switzerland-Georgia 4-1
12.10.02 .....Albania-Switzerland 1-1
16.10.02 .....Rep Ireland-Switzerland 1-2
16.10.02 .....Russia-Albania 4-1
29.03.03 .....Albania-Russia
29.03.03 .....Georgia-Rep Ireland
02.04.03 .....Albania-Rep Ireland
02.04.03 .....Georgia-Switzerland
30.04.03 .....Georgia-Russia
07.06.03 .....Rep Ireland-Albania
07.06.03 .....Switzerland-Russia
11.06.03 .....Rep Ireland-Georgia
11.06.03 .....Switzerland-Albania
06.09.03 .....Georgia-Albania
06.09.03 .....Rep Ireland-Russia
10.09.03 .....Albania-Georgia
10.09.03 .....Russia-Switzerland
11.10.03 .....Russia-Georgia
11.10.03 .....Switzerland-Rep Ireland

GROUP 10

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	3	2	1	0	7	3	7
Russia	2	2	0	0	8	3	6
Albania	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
Rep Ireland	2	0	0	2	3	6	0
Georgia	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

- The 10 group winners qualify for the finals automatically; the 10 runners-up will play-off in five head-to-head, home and away ties, the winners of which also qualify.
- Qualifying play-off dates: Nov 15, 2003; Nov 19, 2003.
- Portugal qualify automatically for the finals as hosts.
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See World Service, starting page 35, for the line-ups for the two October rounds of matches

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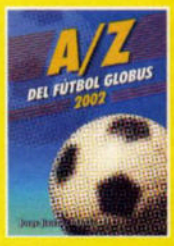

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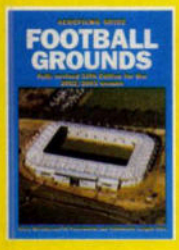

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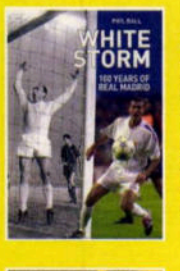

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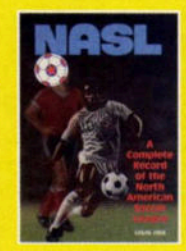

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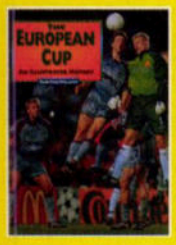

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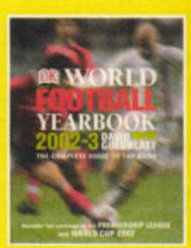

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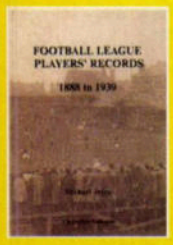

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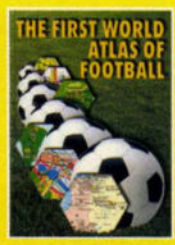

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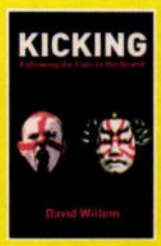

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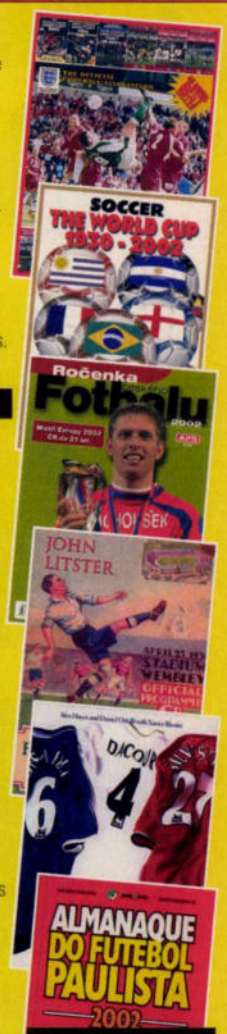

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Keir Radnedge
COMMENTARY

Legacy...Crozier will be remembered as the man who appointed England's first foreign manager, Sven Goran Eriksson

Insider dealing

After Crozier's departure, the professional game must become a trusted partner at the FA

ADAM CROZIER sends his apologies but he "will not have the time for tomorrow's interview with *World Soccer*". That was the gist of the message left on the voicemail.

Presumably now he will have plenty of time. His views might be even more interesting than they would have been on the morning we were due to meet, two days before his abrupt departure as chief executive of the Football Association.

Crozier's exit merely extended the controversy over his three-year reign. He arrived from the slick business milieu associated with Saatchi & Saatchi, upped the FA's revenues by 280 per cent and increased its staff appropriately.

Unfortunately, running the FA is not like bossing any other business. The title of chief executive does not carry the usual independent authority, and it was simplistic of Crozier, apparently, to harbour this notion as long as he did. He succeeded in the business but failed in the boardroom.

Newspapers that had spent the previous weeks all but demanding Crozier's head turned inside out when they got it. Suddenly, it was the worst possible outcome for football in England if not the world, the universe and all galaxies beyond.

Simply, Crozier was outmanoeuvred because he generated so much money on the back of the professional game that he also generated similar sums of envy among Premier and Football League clubs. He could have survived had the amateur game swung behind him. But that did not happen.

Geoff Thompson, the FA chairman who rose from the amateur ranks in Sheffield, might have saved Crozier. But Thompson, having ascended to the UEFA executive and perhaps with designs on David Will's British FIFA vice-presidency, found himself ensnared by the professionals, with his re-election probably at stake next year.

Thompson is, famously, not a confrontational individual and he will need all his negotiating skills over the next six months. At the end of it all, however, the Crozier explosion could be just what the English game needed.

English football's government has been in the hands of the amateur brigade for just about all the FA's 139 years. Only in the past 10 years has the FA been dragged, screaming, towards management-effective modernity. The move out of too-small, patched-up, inadequate Lancaster Gate was long overdue; Soho Square is ideal.

That is down to Crozier. Finding a Wembley solution – despite his mistakes along the way – is down to Crozier.

His reign was also spattered with occasional misjudgments, such as the 'private' after-dinner speech that poked fun at the old FA. He very nearly undermined the Wembley project with his scheming to impress the government. He irritated the old guard, who regard the FA as their private club, with his sometimes over-secretive modus operandi and with his reliance on former Saatchi colleagues.

Even the introduction of Sven Goran Eriksson as national coach remains a thorny issue. Some see it as a positive product of Crozier's reign, some as entirely negative.

In the long run, that is probably how Crozier will be best remembered: as the chief executive who appointed the first foreigner ever to manage England.

But there is a far larger picture. It is ridiculous that the FA has been riven for so many years by the squabble between professionals and amateurs. The FA should run all the game in England and that means the professional game must be a trusted insider – not a disruptive fringe whinge.

Crozier's business dealings proved that sponsorship cash is out there in abundance for the benefit of the game. Significantly, however, that depends on those sponsors obtaining the commensurate visibility that is provided by the professional game, by the England team and the FA Cup – not, with all due respect, by the local, disparate county associations.

It just might be that Crozier's departure provides the best possible chance of creating a unified FA. If so, then his departure will have served a valid purpose.

The Walsall way

TO LISTEN to the gloom merchants, you would think that making a profit out of club football is impossible. Wrong. Walsall, the English First Division club with a cosmopolitan mix of players from Portugal, Australia, Brazil, Spain and even England, have just made a £43,000 profit, the 11th straight year they have delighted their bank manager. Chief executive Keith Whalley says: "We only spend what we know we have, not what we have been promised." Now why didn't other clubs think of that?

Net profit...Walsall may play in red, but their finances are in the black

Referees: only the best will do

SHOULD the best referees and assistants control matches at the World Cup finals? The answer may seem obvious but the issue provoked the first storm within the reorganised FIFA referees' committee.

Only Spain's Angel Maria Villar remains of the committee disgraced by events in South Korea and Japan. He was promoted by FIFA president Sepp Blatter from mere committee member to its chairman.

Blatter, significantly, sat in on the first meeting of the new committee, which decided that the refereeing teams at World Cup finals should, in future, be drawn from one country. Thus Italy v Germany might be refereed by an Argentinian quartet (referee, assistants and fourth official).

FIFA's press release said the decision had been carried unanimously and will apply to all world championships, starting with next year's World Youth Cup in the United Arab Emirates. But I understand Central/North America, Africa and Asia all spoke up in opposition and that the proposal was not carried on a vote at all.

Furious CONCACAF president Jack Warner called it: "The worst refereeing decision of all time. This effectively means an almost impenetrable roadblock for referees and assistants from CONCACAF, Asia, Africa and Oceania. Any one of our officials could work hard to rise through the ranks but then be cast aside because there are not two others of his standard from his country."

Survivor...Angel Maria Villar

Warner has a point. But while the worldwide trawl could work for youth events, it's impossible for the World Cup itself. The image of a 'straight' World Cup is crucial to the worldwide perception of the game.

The odd couple for 2008

YOU could hardly find a greater contrast than Ralph Zloczower and Friedrich Stickler, the federation presidents who head Switzerland and Austria's joint bid to host Euro 2008. Talk about the old and the new.

Zloczower, 70-year-old president of the Swiss federation and former president of Young Boys, represents the traditional school of sports administrators; he was even a steward at the 1954 World Cup Final, in which West Germany beat Hungary 3-2, and still carries his official matchday pass.

Stickler, on the other hand, is the boss of Austrian lotteries who came into football – appropriately – by chance, working part-time as a croupier in Salzburg to help pay his way through university. He duly worked his way up the ladder so effectively that, in due course, he became chairman.

That provided the springboard to a committee role with UEFA, overseeing the InterToto Cup, and then on to the chairmanship of the all-powerful club competitions committee.

He took over as Austrian federation president only last April, emerging as a third-way candidate after the federation split between long-serving Beppo Mauhart and Frank Stronach, the Austro-Canadian horse racing millionaire.

A man to watch...if the Austro-Swiss bid succeeds, that is.

Cunning plan...Nikola Ilievski

Ilievski has the last laugh

THE English media remains happily naive about the tricks foreign coaches can play. The 2-2 draw with Macedonia at Southampton proved the point.

The previous Saturday Macedonia, their attack led by Georgi Hristov, lost 2-1 to Turkey, and English media assessments headlined the threat posed by the former Barnsley striker. In fact, there was never any intention of Hristov making the trip.

He was injured in Macedonia's previous match, against Liechtenstein, much to the irritation of his Dutch club, NEC Nijmegen. Macedonia coach Nikola Ilievski then agreed with NEC that if he could use Hristov against Turkey he would not take him to England. There was no secret about the deal.

Ilievski, who had spied on England at the World Cup, worked out the ideal strategy. He played without a central striker but used two forwards – including man of the match Artim Sakiri – running wide.

That restricted England's full-backs, Gary Neville and Ashley Cole, and left centre-backs Jonathan Woodgate and Sol Campbell marking empty space. Campbell was so disorientated he committed the blunder that led to Macedonia's second goal.

Ilievski's considerable reward for the draw was to be handed a new four-year contract.

United front...Austrian FA president Friedrich Stickler and Swiss counterpart Ralph Zloczower launch their joint bid

The battle for 2008

Keir Radnedge reports on the leading contenders to host the European Championship in six years' time

THE CREAM of Europe's national teams are barely into their stride along the road that leads to Portugal, yet it is the finals four years further on, in 2008, that are exercising UEFA's most influential minds.

On December 12 the European federation will announce which of the seven contrasting bids has won the hosting rights. The result, right now, is considered too close to call.

Austria/Switzerland, Scotland/Ireland, the Nordic quartet and Russia are neck and neck for a wide variety of reasons. Running along behind them are Hungary plus two other co-hosting bids from Greece/Turkey and Croatia/Bosnia.

UEFA's inspection team has spent a working week with each of the bidders, inspecting stadia, logistics, financial projection, artists' and architects' impressions. They have been wined and dined extensively and have responded with encouraging, positive comments everywhere they have gone.

But behind closed doors reality will cut in. Even the smart money is not quite certain where the finals will finish up. That is because of the complexities imposed by the voting procedure. Clearly, the odds are in favour of success for one of the co-hosting bids. But the concept, while it offers smaller nations their only prospect of staging a major event, is not without its complications.

The World Cup experience with South Korea and Japan would not be a fair comparison. But Euro 2000, in Belgium and Holland, proved the point. Two closer cousins would be harder to imagine but major differences emerged in set-up and execution of the finals that will need to be addressed to UEFA's satisfaction by future co-host hopefuls.

What is possible is that an unofficial route map for future European Championships will be set out, with hosting alternating between single countries and joint ventures. Holland and Belgium co-hosted in 2000; Portugal goes it alone in 2004; logic dictates a switch back to co-hosting in 2008.

But none of the ultimately unsuccessful bidders will have been wasting their time. All have had the chance to show UEFA what they can provide, and the likelihood is that junior and youth events will be handed out further down the line as consolation prizes.

First of the outsiders is Croatia/Bosnia, for reasons that have as much to do with logistics as politics and security. Officials in Zagreb and Sarajevo made no secret of the fact that building the necessary structures depended on winning the vote. Not the best of arguments. The Portugal experience has underlined that government pledges of support are no guarantee once the votes have been cast.

Greece/Turkey seems politically implausible while the Cyprus hitch remains, and Greece will also be staging the Olympic Games in Athens in less than two years' time, which is international prize enough to be going on with.

Hungary is unlikely to garner much support either, as the domestic game rattles along in perpetual crisis. There are also few signs of improvement in facilities since the failed 'Habsburg Option' with the Austrians four years ago.

A far more realistic single-country option is the bid by Russia. The federation has been consistent in wanting to push for a major soccer event for the first time in its history. However, the government has been less than enthusiastic, twice coming close to saying yes and then backing off.

The concern of their main rivals has been, all along, that Russian state President Vladimir Putin would, even late in the day, throw heavyweight government support behind the bid. Sadly, the prospects for the Russians have receded as a result of the tragic end to the Moscow theatre siege by Chechen terrorists. Security is less of an issue – looking six years down the line – than an assessment that Russian politicians and social planners have more important tasks ahead than staging a series of football matches.

First to hype up their hosting bid after the 2000 finals were the Nordic quartet of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. In simplistic terms, it seems an obvious grouping. But dig a little deeper and the structural flaws leap out.

Firstly, the event would have to cope with four currencies. Secondly, UEFA regulations stipulate that a maximum of two host nations are permitted direct access to the finals. So how would the quartet sort that out – with a tournament among themselves? Then, crucially, how on earth could the two non-qualified nations raise the enthusiasm to host matches in the finals? The longer the bid has been up and running, the more questionable it has become.

The main northern European rival is

Scotland/Ireland, a bid that received great encouragement from the published comments of UEFA president Lennart Johansson about how impressively Scotland (and Glasgow) had welcomed the Champions League Final last May. Unfortunately, the appearance of Johansson's remarks, in an official Champions League report, was followed within days by an Irish U-turn on their new stadium.

Scotland were always going to be the major partner, providing a minimum of six stadia. That left Ireland to provide two. Lansdowne Road, Dublin, would be one. As for the other, it was assumed that, after Taoiseach Bertie Ahern had been returned to power by this year's general election, 'Bertie's Bowl' would follow in a matter of time.

Political pressure ended that dream, however, when junior partners in Ireland's governing coalition insisted that monies should be directed at social needs rather than sporting luxuries. That threw the ball into the private enterprise court as well as reopening the issue over whether the Gaelic sports' Gaelic Athletic Association would sanction the one-off use of its sacrosanct Croke Park under threat of government withdrawal of up to £20million in promised subsidies. The GAA has decided not to discuss the issue until next April – effectively thumbing its nose at not only the football association and the government but Irish sports fans in general.

To compound Scottish/Irish embarrassment, the stadium U-turn occurred only the week before UEFA's inspection team turned up on their Dublin doorstep. The party then flew on to Scotland, taking in the projected unified Dundee venue and a new Aberdeen stadium, Hibernian's Easter Road and rugby's Murrayfield in Edinburgh. Then it was on to Glasgow for visits to Clyde's Broadwood (a proposed training centre), Celtic Park and, of course, Hampden.

The UEFA team was at pains to ease local concerns about the negative impact of having rather more unbuilt sites than expected. But it must have played negatively by contrast with the previous week's view of the Austro/Swiss bid.

● "It is possible that an unofficial route map will be set out for future European Championships, with hosting alternating between single bids and joint ventures"

If any bid can claim to be favourite, it is the latter. Firstly, the Austrians have more bidding experience than the rest since they are here for a third time. The first was ahead of 1996, a bid that never really got off the ground once UEFA had decided to expand the finals from eight to 16 teams and when it became clear, simultaneously, that England was bidding.

Bid No 2 from the Austrians was in partnership with Hungary in the contest to host 2004. The political appeal of the bid was the prospective opening up that year of the European Union to Eastern European countries. The Austrians fulfilled their part of the bargain but the Hungarians let them down badly; the Budapest end of the partnership imploded amid political infighting.

The work undertaken by the Austrians, however, has served its purpose. A new ▶

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stadium is in place in Salzburg, redevelopment work including a new roof is past the planning stage in Innsbruck, work will shortly be under way on a new venue in Klagenfurt, and only minor redevelopment is needed at the Ernst-Happel stadium in the Prater park in Vienna.

Austria has the infrastructure all mapped out. If anything, the danger is that they are almost too far ahead of the game and their Swiss partners are having to run to catch up.

At one stage Swiss football was little more than a European joke. Switzerland hosted the World Cup in 1954 and the Wankdorf stadium in Berne, which hosted the Final, changed very little down the years. The Swiss lacked political will rather than finance, of course. Attitudes began to change in the mid-1990s, encouraged by the revival of the national team under the management of Roy Hodgson. Switzerland qualified for the World Cup finals for the first time in 28 years and for the European finals for the first time ever.

Off the pitch, the federation, after years bogged down in its own impenetrable internal difficulties, began to look further afield – rather after the fashion of the Swiss nation itself in preparing to join the United Nations and make closer ties with the European Union. Informally, the Swiss raised with the Austrians the prospects of a joint bid for Euro 2008. The Austrians responded by setting up a formal meeting, and agreement was quickly in place. Simultaneously, the Swiss launched an ambitious and expensive stadia redevelopment programme.

The historic old Wankdorf was razed and plans approved to build a new, 42,000-seater stadium in Berne (it was a pity that part of the old Wankdorf could not have been turned into a football museum, but by the time that idea emerged the bulldozers had done their job). The St Jakob stadium in Basle was rebuilt through a private/public initiative, just as a new stadium is well on its way to replace Servette's old Charmilles in Geneva.

In Zurich, another new stadium will replace the Hardturm and be shared by both Grasshopper and FC Zurich; the Letzigrund, traditional home of FCZ, will be refurbished as a new Swiss home for track and field. All the new Swiss stadia will be multi-functional. As project director Thomas Helbling, a former Sports Minister's adviser, said: "Nowadays, no one can afford to have a stadium that sits around doing nothing for six days a week. All our new stadia include hotels, restaurants, conference facilities and leisure centres."

Showpiece...Vienna's Ernst-Happel stadium

● "Austria has the infrastructure all mapped out. If anything, the danger is they are almost too far ahead of the game and their Swiss partners are having to run to catch up"

Geneva's new stadium even features an old people's home. The stadium itself will open on March 14 next year with a League match followed by a formal opening ceremony set for a friendly between Switzerland and Italy on April 30.

Just to keep all the Swiss regional interests happy, the bid envisages basing the tournament referees down in Lugano.

Switzerland feels more comfortable now about its place within the international football family. Pierre Gillieron, federation general secretary, said: "We knew we could rebuild the stadia; the one concern we had was how our public would support the bid. But all the polls are supportive and we were amazed at the way fans here came out to watch the games at the European Under-21 Championship this year.

"We had hoped for around 6,000 per match but in the end it was almost double that. Obviously, we do not think filling the stadia for the senior European Championship will be a problem. Also, of course, Switzerland and Austria are the most convenient countries for many foreign fans to reach, considering we share borders with Germany, France and Italy. Hence our slogan: 'Football's best – close to you'."

Gillieron, Helbling and co literally rolled out a symbolic green, rather than red, carpet for the UEFA inspection team and even commissioned actors to mock up a hooligan incident on a stadium terrace to demonstrate the speed and efficiency of the local riot police.

The bid itself has cost £3.5m, most of which has been underwritten by sponsor Credit Suisse. Of course, that does not include the cost of stadia redevelopment. But then, as they insist, this work is going ahead independently anyway.

Politically, the Austro/Swiss believe that because UEFA is based in Switzerland, the governing body cannot fail to consider a local bid as possessing an enormous advantage from a logistical point of view.

They also shrug off suggestions that to hand the event to Austria/Switzerland would be geographically unfair, with Germany having hosted the World Cup only two years earlier. Helbling again: "There is a Nordic bid yet Sweden hosted the Championship in 1992. There is a Scottish and Irish bid yet England hosted the finals in 1996. Wherever you look, people could make this argument. Anyway, I don't believe UEFA feels it has to be influenced by what FIFA does with its own tournaments."

But in the end it could all come down not so much to stadia but to politics. The December 12 decision will be taken by the UEFA executive committee using a progressive voting system. But none of the executive members with a national interest will be allowed to vote until after their country has been eliminated.

Remarkably, that involves no fewer than six members of the 14-strong executive – so many, in fact, that the committee will be down to the bare minimum for a quorum when voting begins.

Disqualified from the first round of voting are Lennart Johansson (Sweden), Senes Erzik (Turkey), Per Ravn Omdal (Norway), Viacheslav Koloskov (Russia), Giangiorgio Spiess (Switzerland) and Eggert Magnusson (Iceland, which has declared formal solidarity with the Nordics).

The fear in Vienna and Berne is that, if the Nordic bid falls early on, then Johansson, Omdal and Magnusson would be more likely to vote for Scotland/Ireland.

But who knows what else may be whispered in the corridors of power on the eve of the vote? Is there a Charlie Dempsey in UEFA's house?

STORY OF THE MONTH

Losing it...Scaloni plays the ball past Ze Roberto during Deportivo's defeat of Bayern

Spain 3 Bayern 0

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Liga clubs lead the way as Bayern crash out

SPANISH clubs played key roles, one way or another, as the Champions League first group phase headed towards a climax.

Deportivo La Coruna produced the victory that sent Bayern Munich crashing out, holders Real Madrid lost at home to Italian opposition – Roma – for the first time in 35 years (yet still qualified for the second round), while Barcelona became the only one of the 32 contenders to maintain a 100 per cent record after five matchdays.

In **Group A** Arsenal and Dortmund both qualified with a game to spare. Arsenal secured their place in the second phase despite losing twice in a row in a run of four successive defeats in both Premiership and Champions League that brought their early-season march to a shattering end. First they lost 2-1 at home to Auxerre – an unhappy 53rd birthday for manager Arsene Wenger – then they lost 2-1 away to Dortmund despite Thierry Henry's 18th-minute free-kick in the Westfalenstadion. Dortmund levelled when Gilberto Silva deflected home a Tomas Rosicky free-kick, then the Czech converted a second-half penalty after a contentious award against David Seaman for fouling Jan Koller.

PSV and Auxerre both left their efforts too late – the French finishing with nine men as they went down 3-0 in Eindhoven.

In **Group B**, superb Valencia qualified easily, leaving Liverpool and Basle squabbling over second place. The Spanish champions dropped their first points when they were held 2-2 in Basle, while Liverpool completed the double over Moscow Spartak with a 3-1 win in Russia courtesy of a Michael Owen hat-trick. Valencia then confirmed their progress to the second round when Francisco Rufete's first-half goal earned a deserved 1-0 win over Liverpool at Anfield.

The Spartak v Basle tie was postponed by a week because of the Moscow theatre siege.

Holders Real Madrid suddenly went off the boil in **Group C** but still managed to qualify for the second round. First they dropped a 2-0 lead at home to AEK Athens and were held 2-2 – AEK coach Dusan Bayevic described it as a "historic" result for his club – then Madrid lost 1-0 to Roma in front of their own fans.

Superb Francesco Totti scored the decisive goal, but Madrid's consolation was the

knowledge that the 1-1 draw between AEK and Genk had secured their qualification.

In **Group D**, the Italian revival was maintained by Internazionale, who recovered from a surprise home defeat by Lyon to force an exciting 3-3 draw in France. They edged clear at the top with a 3-0 home beating of Rosenborg.

Ajax's failure to deal similarly with the Norwegians at home – they drew 1-1 – was a headache for coach Ronald Koeman, who blamed his players' overt defensive caution. They took the lesson to heart by then winning impressively by 2-0 away to Lyon.

Juventus raced out in front to secure their qualifying place in **Group E**. They lost for the first time by 1-0 away to Newcastle but made amends by winning 2-0 at home to Feyenoord.

Sir Bobby Robson was delighted with the manner in which his team both defeated Juventus – Gianluigi Buffon beaten by Andy Griffin – then hit back from 1-0 down to upset Kyiv Dynamo 2-1 at home.

Manchester United booked their place in the second stage from **Group F** with only four games played, despite a fine comeback by Olympiakos at home.

United's subsequent 3-0 upset by Maccabi Haifa in Nicosia mattered only in terms of pride. Sir Alex Ferguson, for reasons of injury and fatigue, left several key players at home.

Bayer Leverkusen, finalists last season, moved from bottom to second place after beating Maccabi 2-1 and Olympiakos 2-0.

Bayern Munich's European campaign went from bad to worse in **Group G** when they lost 2-1 both in Milan and in La Coruna. The German media savaged Bayern and coach Ottmar Hitzfeld; club executive director Karl-Heinz Rummenigge warned that a clearout of players would be needed to balance the books.

Milan were already certain of their place in the second round and could thus afford a 2-1 defeat in Lens.

In **Group H**, Barcelona became the only club to maintain a 100 per cent record when they beat Lokomotiv Moscow and Club Brugge. Their form made a nonsense of their erratic performances in the Spanish League.

Keir Radnedge

INTERNATIONALS

Wednesday, October 9

Oct 9 - Martinique - friendly
Martinique 4
St Lucia 0
HT: 4-0

Friday, October 11

Oct 11 - Sarajevo - friendly
Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 (Baljic 21)
Germany 1 (Jancker 56)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** De Santis (Ita)
Bosnia: Tolja - Bosnjak, Konjic (Halihodzic 71), Hibic, Papac (Miskovic 63), Sabic (Krunic 66), Bajramovic, Salihamidzic, Mujcin (Hota 61), Music, Baljic (Huric 75). *Sent off: Salihamidzic 49min.*
Germany: Kahn (Lehmann 46) - Rehmer (Friedrich 46), Ramelow, Worns, Frings, Jeremies, Kehl, Asamoah (Freier 46), Borowski (Schneider 46), Jancker, Klose (Zickler 78). *Sent off: Worns 49min.*

Saturday, October 12

Oct 12 - Tallinn - friendly
Estonia 3 (Anniste 9, Viikmae 52, Zelinski 81)
New Zealand 2 (Hickey 40, Lines 44)
HT: 1-2

Oct 12 - Lisbon - friendly
Portugal 1 (Pauleta 3)
Tunisia 1 (Zitouni 41)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 10,000
Portugal: Ricardo - Paulo Ferreira, Fernando Meira, Fernando Couto, Nuno Valente, Figo (Marco Ferreira 82), Costinha (Vidigal 66), Rui Costa (Romeu 66), Petit (Neca 79), Sergio Conceicao (Capucho 66), Pauleta.
Tunisia: Boumnijel - Jaidi, Marzouki, Trabelsi, Bouazizi, Zouaghi, Toujani (Miladi), Zitouni (Selliti), Mnari (Boujelbane), Melki (Sellami), Benachour.

Oct 12 - Dakar - friendly
Senegal 2
Nigeria 2
Ref: Diatta (Sen)
Senegal: Sylva - Coly (Diagne-Faye), Beye (Moussa N'Diaye), Diatta, P M Diop, A Cisse (P Sarr), A Faye (Sylvain N'Diaye), Diao (S Camara), Fadiga (Makhtar N'Diaye), Diouf (Thiaw), H Camara.
Nigeria: Enyeama - Ejadeuba, Idahor, Kingsley, Rowanus, Seyi, Shuaibu, Ezenwa, Abubakar, Ogechukwu, Abacha.

Tuesday, October 15

Oct 15 - Edinburgh - friendly
Scotland 3 (Crawford 11, 73, Thompson 50)
Canada 1 (De Rosario pen 9)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 16,207. **Ref:** Huyghe (Blg)
Scotland: Gallacher - Ross (Davidson 46), Wilkie (Murray 75), Pressley, Dailly, Anderson, G Alexander, Gemmill (Severin 66), Devlin, Crawford (Kyle 89), Thompson (McFadden 81).
Canada: Hirschfeld - Fenwick, Hastings, McKenna, Pozniak, Imhof (Xausa 82), Stalteri, Nsaliwa, Radzinski, De Rosario, De Guzman.

Wednesday, October 16

Oct 16 - San Jose - friendly
Costa Rica 1 (Bryce 53)
Ecuador 1 (C Tenorio 83)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Badilla (CR)
Costa Rica: Gonzalez - Marin, Chinchilla, Drummond, Benneth, Vallejos (Esquivel 79), Bryce (Scott 61), Centeno (Vargas 90), C Castro, W Parks (Saborio 61), Sunsing (R Cordero 77).
Ecuador: Ibarra - Gomez, I Hurtado, Poroso, W Ayovi (Capurro 80), Obregon, Mendez, Sanchez (Salas 78), E Tenorio (O Tenorio 61), C Tenorio, Asencio.

Oct 16 - Tokyo - friendly
Japan 1 (Ono 7)
Jamaica 1 (Fuller 80)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 55,427. **Ref:** Kim Young-joo (SKo)
Japan: Narazaki - Narahashi, Matsuda, Akita, Hattori, Ono (Fukunishi 81), Inamoto (K Nakata 81), H Nakata, Nakamura, T Suzuki, Takahara (Yanagisawa 76).
Jamaica: A Lawrence (Ricketts 74) - Goodison, Scarlett, McDonald, C Davis, Ziadie, Hyde (Johnson 71), Daley (Fuller 61), Hall (Taylor 78), Hayles, A Williams (Dixon 61).

Oct 16 - Ostrowiec Swietokrzyski - friendly
Poland 2 (Ratajczyk 52, Kukielka 88)
New Zealand 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Layec (Fra)
Poland: Liberda - Glowacki, Zielinski, Ratajczyk, Kus (Surma 64), M Lewandowski (Michal Zewlakow 80), Kosowski, Kukielka, Zienczuk (Dawidowski 46), Zurawski (Marcin Zewlakow 71), Wichniarek (Mieciel 46).
New Zealand: Batty - Zoricich (Mulligan 67), Hay, Smith, Davis, Collins, Jones (Wilkinson 71), Jackson, Bouckenooghe (Fisher 75), Hickey, Lines.

Oct 16 - Logrono - friendly
Spain 0
Paraguay 0
Att: 15,000. **Ref:** Benquerenca (Por)
Spain: Contreras - Michel Salgado, Garcia Calvo, Juanito, Raul Bravo (Capdevila 46), Albelda, Baraja (Xavi 46), Mendieta (Joaquin 46), Capi, Vicente (Guti 46), Morientes (Diego Tristan 46).
Paraguay: Tavarelli - Isasi, Ayala, Gamarra, Da Silva, Acuna, Paredes, Bonet, Cuevas (Avalos 90), Campos (Caceres 87), Gomez (Samudio 46).

Oct 16 - Gothenburg - friendly
Sweden 2 (Pettersson 6, Allback 24)
Portugal 3 (Sergio Conceicao pen 34, Romeu 53, Rui Costa 88)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 30,047. **Ref:** Vassaras (Gre)
Sweden: Isaksson (Last 46) - Mellberg (Johansson 46), Michael Svensson, Jakobsson, Alexandersson, Linderoth, A Svensson, Kallstrom, Jonson (Edman 59), Allback, Pettersson (Aubynn 74).
Portugal: Quim - Fernando Meira, Fernando Couto, Petit (Nuno Valente 46), Sergio Conceicao, Rui Jorge (Jorge Silva 46), Beto, Hugo Viana (Rui Costa 80), Capucho (Boa Morte 46), Romeu (Pauleta 80), Marco Ferreira (Figo 80).

Thursday, October 17

Oct 17 - friendly
French Guiana 1
Surinam 1

Saturday, October 19

Oct 19 - friendly
French Guiana 0
Surinam 1

Oct 19 - Freetown - friendly
Sierra Leone 2 (Massaquoi 24, K Kallon 36)
Ghana 1 (Taylor 25)
HT: 2-1

Sunday, October 20

Oct 20 - Caracas - friendly
Venezuela 2 (Rey 30, Moreno 78)
Ecuador 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Brand (Ven)
Venezuela: Angelucci (Sanhouse 82) - Vallenilla, Vielma, Rey, Rivero (Isea 60), Jimenez, Urdaneta (Rouga 76), M Mea Vitali (Di Giorgio 75), G Perez (Bravo 60), Noriega (Casseres 69), Garcia (Moreno 60).
Ecuador: Ibarra - Gomez (W Ayovi 57), I Hurtado, Poroso, M Ayovi, Obregon, E Tenorio, Sanchez (O Tenorio 61), Mendez, C Tenorio, Asencio (Baldeon 80).

Wednesday, October 23

Oct 23 - Arusha, Tanzania - Four-team tnmt
Kenya 1 (Muyoti pen 59)
South Africa 1 (Kukame 51)
HT: 0-0
Kenya 5-3 on pens

Oct 23 - Arusha, Tanzania - Four-team tnmt
Tanzania 0
Uganda 2 (Isabirye 33, Kinene 89)
HT: 0-1

Saturday, October 26

Oct 26 - Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania - Four-team tnmt Final
Kenya 1 (Baraza 80)
Uganda 1 (Okello 14)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Chiganga (Tan)
Kenya 3-2 on pens

Oct 26 - Dar-es-Salaam, Tanz. - Four-team tnmt 3rd-place
Tanzania 1 (Morris 88)
South Africa 1 (Ntsoane 73)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Kaunda (Ken)
South Africa 4-3 on pens

Sunday, October 27

Oct 27 - Antigua & Barbuda - friendly
Antigua & Barbuda 1
St Kitts & Nevis 1

Thursday, October 31

Oct 31 - Guatemala - friendly
Guatemala 1
Jamaica 1
HT: 0-0

Sunday, November 3

Nov 3 - Martinique - friendly
Martinique 2
St Kitts & Nevis 1

EURO 2004 QUALIFIERS

Group 1

Oct 12 - Saint-Denis
France 5 (Vieira 10, Marlet 35, 64, Wiltord 79, Govou 86)
Slovenia 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 77,619. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
France: Barthez - Thuram (Sagnol 84), Gallas, Desailly, Silvestre, Marlet (Govou 80), Makelele, Zidane, Vieira, Wiltord (Cheyrou 87), Henry.
Slovenia: Simeunovic - Cipot, Vugdalic, Radosavljevic (Zlogar 67), Gajser, Sukalo, Zahovic, Pavlin, Karic (Filekovic 88), Siljak, Cimirotic (N Ceh 46). *Sent off: Gajser 90min.*

Oct 12 - Valletta
Malta 0
Israel 2 (Balili 56, Revivo 77)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,200. **Ref:** Shebek (Ukr)
Malta: Muscat - Said, Chetcuti, Carabott, Debono, Dimech, Agius (Mallia 83), Turner, Brincat (A Mifsud 74), Michael Mifsud, Nwoko (Bogdanovic 64).
Israel: Awat - Zano, Badir, Benado, Domb, Keisi, Banin, Berkovic (Nimni 89), Tal (Antebi 82), Balili (Benayoun 70), Revivo.

Oct 16 - Valletta
Malta 0
France 4 (Henry 25, 35, Wiltord 59, Carriere 84)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Tudor (Rom)
Malta: Muscat - Debono (Miguel Mifsud 87), Said, Dimech, Carabott, Brincat (Mallia 69), Giglio, Chetcuti, Agius, Michael Mifsud, Nwoko (Bogdanovic 46).
France: Barthez - Thuram (Mexes 84), Gallas, Desailly, Silvestre, Makelele, Vieira (Dacourt 70), Zidane, Wiltord, Marlet, Henry (Carriere 78).

Group 2

Oct 12 - Copenhagen
Denmark 2 (Tomasson pen 52, Sand 72)
Luxembourg 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,259. **Ref:** Bede (Hun)
Denmark: Skov-Jensen - Bogelund, Henriksen, N Jensen, Poulsen, C Jensen (Lovenkrands 84), Gravesen, Tomasson, Rommedahl (Gronkjaer 66), Sand, Martin Jorgensen (Larsen 75).
Luxembourg: Besic - Ferron, Hoffmann, Strasser, F Deville, Holtz (Di Domenico 84), Leweck, Reiter, Cardoni, Remy, Braun (Huss 79).

Oct 12 - Bucharest
Romania 0
Norway 1 (Iversen 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)
Romania: Vintila - Radoi, Gheorghe Popescu, Chivu, Contra, Codrea, D Munteanu (Pancu 85), Rat, Mutu, Ganea (Niculae 63), Moldovan (Ilie 63).
Norway: Myhre - Basma, H Berg, Lundekvam, Bergdolmo, Iversen, Andersen, E Bakke, Riise, Solskjaer (Rushfeldt 90), Carew (Leonhardsen 79).

Oct 16 - Luxembourg
Luxembourg 0
Romania 7 (Moldovan 2, 5, Radoi 24, Contra 45, 47, 86, Ghioane 80)
HT: 0-4. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Lajuks (Lat)
Luxembourg: Besic - Ferron, Hoffmann, Strasser, F Deville, Holtz (Rohmann 76), Leweck, Reiter, Cardoni (Schneider 60), Remy, Braun (Huss 71).
Romania: Vintila - Radoi, Gheorghe Popescu, Miu, Contra, Codrea (Ghioane 36), D Munteanu, Rat, Ilie, Ganea (Pancu 46), Moldovan (Cernat 69).

Oct 16 - Oslo
Norway 2 (Lundekvam 7, Riise 27)
Bosnia-Herzegovina 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 24,169. **Ref:** Benes (Cze)
Norway: Olsen - Basma, H Berg, Lundekvam, Bergdolmo, Leonhardsen (Carew 65), Andersen (Svindal Larsen 90), E Bakke, Riise, Iversen, Solskjaer (Rushfeldt 90).
Bosnia: Tolja - Bosnjak (Mujcin 65), Hibic, Konjic, Papac, Sabic (Huric 57), Bajramovic, Grujic, Salihamidzic (Miskovic 84), Music, Baljic.

Group 3

Oct 12 - Minsk
Belarus 0
Austria 2 (Schopp 57, Akagunduz 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Poulat (Fra)
Belarus: Tumilovich - Lukhvich, Ostrovski, Shtanyuk, Hleb, Khatskevich, Kulchy, Yaskovich (Omelyanchuk 51), Shuneiko (Vasilyuk 64), Kutuzov (Ryndyuk 83), Gurenko. *Sent off: Lukhvich 84min.*
Austria: Manninger - Martin Hiden, Baur, Dospel, Schopp, Kovacevic (Aufhauser 90), Flogel, Wagner, Cerny, Kahraman (Herzog 82), Wallner (Akagunduz 75).

Oct 12 - Chisinau
Moldova 0
Czech Republic 2 (Jankulovski pen 69, Rosicky 79)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Irvine (NI)
Moldova: Hmaruc - Sosnovschi, Pusca, Covalenco, Olexic, Cebotari, Rebeja, Boret (Ivanov 64), Catinsus, Rogaciov (Budanov 72), Clescenco (Patula 46). *Sent off: Sosnovschi 68min.*
Czech Republic: Cech - Grygera, Bolf, Ujfalusi, Jankulovski, Poborsky, Galasek (Jarosik 55), Rosicky (Lokvenc 82), Stajner, Vachousek (Dostalek 88), Koller.

Oct 16 - Vienna
Austria 0
Holland 3 (Seedorf 16, Cocu 20, Makaay 30)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 46,300. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Austria: Manninger - Dospel, Baur, Martin Hiden, Schopp, Flogel, Wagner, Cerny, Herzog (Aufhauser 46), Weissenberger (Akagunduz 76), Wallner (Scharner 80). *Sent off: Martin Hiden 77min.*
Holland: Van der Sar - Ricksen, F De Boer, Stam, Zenden (Bouma 69), Seedorf, Cocu, Van Bommel (R De Boer 77), Davids, Kluivert, Makaay (Hasselbaink 80).

Oct 16 - Teplice
Czech Republic 2 (Poborsky 6, Baros 23)
Belarus 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 12,850. **Ref:** Fleischer (Ger)
Czech Republic: Cech - Jiranek (Grygera 86), Bolf, Ujfalusi, Jankulovski, Poborsky, Rosicky (Jarosik 90), Galasek, Nedved, Baros, Koller (Vachousek 57).
Belarus: Tumilovich - Yaskovich (Lavrik 26), Shuneiko (Omelyanchuk 46), Shtanyuk, Krapkovsky, Gurenko, Khatskevich, Hleb (Ryndyuk 70), Kulchy, Kutuzov, Romaschenko.

Group 4

Oct 12 - Warsaw
Poland 0
Latvia 1 (Laizans 29)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Busacca (Swi)
Poland: Dudek - Hajto, Zielinski, Ratajczyk, Michal Zewlakow (Surma 46), Dawidowski, Kukielka, M Lewandowski, Kosowski (Mieciel 63), Wichniarek (Marcin Zewlakow 46), Zurawski.
Latvia: Kolinko - Blagonadezdins, Igor Stepanovs, Zemlinskis, Laizans, Isakovs, Astafjevs, Rubins, Bleidelis, Verpakovskis (Stolcers 89), Pahars (Prohorenkovs 59).

Oct 12 - Stockholm
Sweden 1 (Ibrahimovic 76)
Hungary 1 (Kenesei 5)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 35,084. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Sweden: Isaksson - Mellberg, Jakobsson, Michael Svensson, Antonelius (Jonson 67), Linderoth, Alexandersson (Kallstrom 59), A Svensson, Ljungberg, Andreas Andersson, Ibrahimovic (Allback 78).
Hungary: Kiraly - Urban, Dragoner, Gyepes, C Feher, Lipcsei, Lisztes, Dardai, Low, Tokoli (M Feher 59), Kenesei (Gera 70).

Oct 16 - Budapest
Hungary 3 (Gera 49, 60, 85)
San Marino 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,500. **Ref:** Orrason (Ice)
Hungary: Kiraly - Urban, Dragoner, Gyepes, C Feher, Lipcsei, Lisztes (Miriuta 84), Dardai (M Feher 78), Low, Tokoli, Kenesei (Gera 46).
San Marino: F Gasperoni - Valentini (Zonzini 81), S Bacciocchi, Gobbi, Albani, Gennari, Michele Marani, Moretti (R Selva 55), Muccioli (Montagna 73), Vannucci, A Selva.

Group 5

Oct 12 - Reykjavik
Iceland 0
Scotland 2 (Dailly 6, Naysmith 63)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,065. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)
Iceland: Arason - Thorsteinsson, L O Sigurdsson, Hreidarsson, Vidarsson (Baldvinsson 66), Ingimarsson, R Kristinsson, Gunnarsson, Gudnason (B Gudjonsson 75), H Sigurdsson (H Helguson 46), E Gudjohnsen.
Scotland: Douglas - Wilkie, Pressley, Dailly, Ross, Ferguson, Lambert, McNamara (Davidson 35), Naysmith (Anderson 90), Thompson (Severin 90), Crawford.

Oct 12 - Kaunas
Lithuania 2 (Razanauskas pen 23, Poskus 37)
Faroe Islands 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Delevic (Yug)
Lithuania: Stauce - Skerla, Dziaukstas, Gleveckas, Skarbalijus, Cesnauskis (Slavickas 77; Stankevicius 84), R Zutautas (Barasa 75), Mikalajunas, Fomenka, Razanauskas, Poskus.
Faroe Islands: Mikkelsen - Johannesen, J K Hansen, Thorsteinsson (J Joensen 73), J R Jacobsen, O Hansen, Benjaminsen, J Johnsson (R Jacobsen 68), a Borg, J Petersen, C Jacobsen (Flotum 60).

Oct 16 - Hannover
Germany 2 (Ballack pen 1, Klose 59)
Faroe Islands 1 (Friedrich og 45)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 36,628. **Ref:** Koren (Isr)
Germany: Kahn - Friedrich, Ramelow (Freier 46), Worns, Schneider (Kehl 87), Jeremies, Hamann, Frings, Ballack, Jancker (Neuville 69), Klose.
Faroe Islands: Mikkelsen - Thorsteinsson, Johannesen, J R Jacobsen, J K Hansen, a Borg (Elttor 71), J Johnsson, O Hansen, Benjaminsen, J Petersen (H Petersen 87), Flotum (C Jacobsen 77).

Oct 16 - Reykjavik
Iceland 3 (H Helguson 50, E Gudjohnsen 60, 73)
Lithuania 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,513. **Ref:** Gilewski (Pol)
Iceland: Arason - Thorsteinsson (B Gudjonsson 37), Ingimarsson, Hreidarsson, Vidarsson, Gudnason, Gunnarsson, Stigsson (Einarsson 65), J K Gudjonsson (H Sigurdsson 75), H Helguson, E Gudjohnsen.
Lithuania: Stauce - Dziaukstas, Skerla, Gleveckas, Stankevicius, Cesnauskis, Barasa, Mikalajunas, Razanauskas, Fomenka, Poskus. *Sent off: Cesnauskis 20min.*

Group 6

Oct 12 - Albacete
Spain 3 (Baraja 19, 89, Guti 59)
Northern Ireland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
Spain: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Puyol, Ivan Helguera, Raul Bravo, Xavi, Baraja, Joaquin (Mendieta 76), Guti (Capi 83), Vicente, Raul (Morientes 63).
N Ireland: Taylor - A Hughes, Taggart (McCann 69), Murdock, McCartney, Johnson, Lomas, Mulryne, Horlock (M Hughes 65), McVeigh (Healy 65), Gillespie.

Oct 12 - Kyiv
Ukraine 2 (Vorobei 51, Voronin 90)
Greece 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Temmink (Hol)
Ukraine: Reva - Luzhnyi, Moroz (Radchenko 25), Husin, Tymoshchuk, Kormiltsev (Rebrov 71), Starostyak, Zubov, Serebrennikov (Voronin 24), Kalinichenko, Vorobei.
Greece: Nikopolidis - Dellas, Dabizas, Venetidis, Seitaridis, Zagorakis (Basinas 69), Karagounis, Tsartas, Lakis (Giannakopoulos 66), Haristeas, Nikolaidis (Vryzas 66).

Oct 16 - Athens
Greece 2 (Nikolaidis 2, 59)
Armenia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Ceferin (Sln)
Greece: Nikopolidis - Seitaridis, Dabizas, Venetidis (Fissas 60), Basinas, Dellas, Tsartas (Zagorakis 46), Kafes, Georgiadis (Giannakopoulos 46), Nikolaidis, Haristeas.
Armenia: Berezovski - Sarkisyan (Melikyan 82), Bilibio, Hovsepyan, Vardanyan, R Hachatryan (Minasyan 46), Petrosyan, Voskanyan, K Dokhoyan, Artavazd Karamian, Arman Karamian (Mkhitaryan 66).

Oct 16 - Belfast
Northern Ireland 0
Ukraine 0
Att: 9,288. **Ref:** Bolognino (Ita)
N Ireland: Taylor - Lomas, A Hughes, McCartney, Horlock, Gillespie, Mulryne (McCann 90), M Hughes, Johnson (Murdock 83), McVeigh (Kirk 65), Healy.
Ukraine: Reva - Starostyak, Luzhnyi, Tymoshchuk, Kormiltsev (Lysytskyi 89), Husin, Zubov, Kalinichenko (Rebrov 54), Voronin, Radchenko, Vorobei (Melaschenko 76).

Group 7

Oct 12 - Skopje
Macedonia 1 (Grozdanovski 2)
Turkey 2 (Okan 29, Nihat 53)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Fisker (Den)
Macedonia: Milosevski - I Mitreski, Stojanoski, Sedloski, Vasoski, Sumulikoski (Popov 46), A Mitreski, Trajanov (Nacevski 65), Sakiri, Hristov (Petrov 46), Grozdanovski.
Turkey: Rustu - Fatih Akyel, Bulent Korkmaz, Alpay, Ergun, Okan (Umit Davala 82), Tugay (Hasan Sas 46), Basturk, Emre Belozoglu, Nihat, Arif (Serhat 46).

Oct 12 - Bratislava
Slovakia 1 (S Nemeth 24)
England 2 (Beckham 65, Owen 82)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Messina (Ita)
Slovakia: Konig - Zeman, Dzurik, Hlinka, Pinte (Kozlej 89), Karhan, Petras, Janocko (Mintal 89), Leitner, Vittek (Reiter 81), S Nemeth.
England: Seaman - G Neville, Woodgate, Southgate, Ashley Cole, Beckham, Gerrard (Dyer 77), Butt, Scholes, Heskey (Smith 90), Owen (Hargreaves 85).

Oct 16 - Southampton
England 2 (Beckham 13, Gerrard 35)
Macedonia 2 (Sakiri 10, Trajanov 24)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 32,095. **Ref:** Dauden Ibanez (Spa)
England: Seaman - G Neville, Woodgate, Campbell, Ashley Cole, Beckham, Scholes, Gerrard (Butt 55), Bridge (Vassell 58), Owen, Smith. *Sent off: Smith 90min.*
Macedonia: Milosevski - Popov, Sedloski, Vasoski, Grozdanovski, Sumulikoski, Trajanov (Stojanoski 90), A Mitreski, Petrov, Sakiri, Toleski (Pandev 62).

Oct 16 - Istanbul
Turkey 5 (Okan 7, Umit Davala 14, Ilhan 23, Serhat 81, 90)
Liechtenstein 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Baskakov (Rus)
Turkey: Rustu - Umit Davala, Alpay, Bulent Korkmaz (Fatih Akyel 46), Okan (Hakan Unsal 60), Emre Belozoglu, Tugay, Ergun, Nihat, Ilhan (Serhat 79), Arif.
Liechtenstein: Jehle - Telser, Michael Stocklasa, D Hasler, D'Elia, T Nigg (Burgmeier 72), Martin Stocklasa (M Beck 79), Gerster, R Buchel (Ospelt 85), T Beck, M Frick.

Group 8

Oct 12 - Andorra La Vella
Andorra 0
Belgium 1 (Sonck 61)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 700. **Ref:** Nalbandyan (Arm)
Andorra: Koldo - Ayala, Jonas, A Lima, Fernandez, Txema (Escura 66), E Gonzalez, Jimenez (Lucendo 76), Sonejee, J Sanchez (Silva 9), Ruiz Gonzalez.
Belgium: De Vlieger - De Cock, Valgaeren, Simons, Dheedene, Buffel, Vanderhaeghe, Baseggio (Thijs 81), Goor, Sonck (Soetaers 90), Van Houdt.

Oct 12 - Sofia
Bulgaria 2 (Stilian Petrov 22, Berbatov 37)
Croatia 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 43,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Bulgaria: Zdravkov - Kishishev, Pazin, Kirilov, I Petkov, Stilian Petrov, Balakov, Peev (Gonzo 90), Jankovic, M Petrov (G Petrov 66), Berbatov (Chilikov 38).
Croatia: Pletikosa - Simic (T Maric 46), Tudor, R Kovac, Zivkovic, Tomas, Vugrinec, Leko, Stanic, Boksic (S Maric 69), Rapajic (Olic 46).

Oct 16 - Sofia
Bulgaria 2 (Chilikov 37, Balakov 58)
Andorra 1 (A Lima 80)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 42,000. **Ref:** Richards (Wal)
Bulgaria: Zdravkov - Kishishev, Pazin, Kirilov, I Petkov, Stilian Petrov, Balakov (Svetoslav Petrov 62), Peev, M Petrov (Manchev 75), Jankovic (Gonzo 77), Chilikov.
Andorra: Koldo - Ayala, Escura, Sonejee, Jonas, A Lima, I Lima, Jimenez (Pujol 80), E Gonzalez (Silva 64), Fernandez, Ruiz Gonzalez. *Sent off: A Lima 83min.*

Oct 16 - Tallinn
Estonia 0
Belgium 1 (Sonck 2)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Riley (Eng)
Estonia: Poom - Allas, Stepanov, Piiroja, U Rooba, Reim, Anniste (Haavistu 46), Kristal (Sarahov 83), Terehhov (Viikmae 60), Oper, Zelinski.
Belgium: De Vlieger - De Cock, Valgaeren, Simons, Dheedene, Vanderhaeghe, Baseggio, Goor, Van Houdt, Sonck, Buffel (Van Hout 89).

Group 9

Oct 12 - Helsinki
Finland 3 (Agaev og 13, Tihinen 60, Hyypia 72)
Azerbaijan 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 11,853. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
Finland: A Niemi - Pasanen, Tihinen, Hyypia (Kuivasto 80), Saarinen, Nurmela, Tainio (Wiss 75), Riihilahti, Kolkka, Litmanen, Sumiala (Kuqi 86).
Azerbaijan: Gasanzade - K Guliev, Akhmedov, R Mamedov (F Mamedov 90), Agaev, Imamaliyev (Vasilyev 84), Emin Guliev, Kerimov, M Gurbanov (Sadygov 66), S Aliyev, G Gurbanov.

Oct 12 - Naples
Italy 1 (Del Piero 38)
Yugoslavia 1 (Mijatovic 27)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Mejuto Gonzalez (Spa)
Italy: Buffon - Panucci, Nesta, Cannavaro, Zauri (Oddo 81), Gattuso, Tommasi, Pirlo (Ambrosini 78), Doni (Montella 46), Del Piero, F Inzaghi.
Yugoslavia: Jevric - Vidic, Mihajlovic, Krstajic, Lazetic, Mirkovic (Duljaj 8), Dragutinovic, Trobok, D Stankovic, Mijatovic (Kezman 66), Kovacevic (Milosevic 73).

Oct 16 - Cardiff
Wales 2 (Davies 11, Bellamy 70)
Italy 1 (Del Piero 32)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Wales: P Jones - Delaney, Melville, Gabbidon, Speed, Davies, Savage, Pembridge, Giggs, Hartson, Bellamy (Blake 90).
Italy: Buffon - Panucci, Nesta, Cannavaro, Zauri, Tommasi, Di Biagio (Gattuso 64; Marazzina 85), Ambrosini, Pirlo, Del Piero, Montella (Maccarone 70).

Oct 16 - Belgrade
Yugoslavia 2 (Kovacevic 56, Mihajlovic pen 84)
Finland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Wegereef (Hol)
Yugoslavia: Jevric - Njegus (Krstajic 46), Vidic, Mihajlovic, Dragutinovic, Lazetic, Duljaj, D Stankovic, Mijatovic, Kovacevic (Milosevic 71), Kezman (N Brnovic 62).
Finland: A Niemi - Pasanen (Reini 63), Kuivasto, Hyypia, Saarinen, Nurmela, Riihilahti, Tainio (Kuqi 82), Kolkka, Litmanen, Sumiala (Johansson 57). *Sent off: Reini 83min.*

Group 10

Oct 12 - Tirana
Albania 1 (Murati 79)
Switzerland 1 (M Yakin 37)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Erdemir (Tur)
Albania: Strakosha - Fakaj (Sina 89), Lala, Cipi, Xhumba, K Duro, Hasi, Murati, F Vata, Haxhi (Bushi 60), Tare (Myrtaj 71).
Switzerland: Stiel - Haas, P Muller, M Yakin, L Magnin, Cabanas (Cantaluppi 81), Vogel, H Yakin (Celestini 63), Wicky, Frei (Thurre 84), Chapuisat.

Oct 16 - Dublin
Rep Ireland 1 (L Magnin og 78)
Switzerland 2 (H Yakin 45, Celestini 87)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Pedersen (Nor)
Rep Ireland: Given - G Kelly, Cunningham, Breen, Harte (Doherty 86), Healy, Holland, Kinsella, Kilbane (Morrison 62), Robbie Keane, Duff (Butler 83).
Switzerland: Stiel - Haas, P Muller, M Yakin, L Magnin, Wicky (Cantaluppi 85), Vogel, Cabanas, H Yakin (Celestini 85), Chapuisat, Frei (Thurre 71).

Oct 16 - Volgograd
Russia 4 (Kerzhakov 3, Semak 42, 55, Onopko 52)
Albania 1 (K Duro 13)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Sundell (Swe)
Russia: Ovchinnikov - Nizhegorodov, Onopko, Ignashevich, Gusev (Evseev 79), Semak, Smertin, Loskov (Aldonin 46), Yanovski, Solomatin, Kerzhakov (Popov 64).
Albania: Strakosha - Lala, Cipi, Xhumba, Fakaj, Hasi, Murati, Haxhi (Bushi 56), K Duro, F Vata (Sina 60), Tare (Myrtaj 69).

ASIAN GAMES

In South Korea

Group A

27.09.02 .....South Korea-Maldives.....4-0
27.09.02 .....Oman-Malaysia.....1-0
30.09.02 .....Maldives-Malaysia.....1-3
30.09.02 .....Oman-South Korea 2-5
03.10.02 .....Malaysia-South Korea.....0-4
03.10.02 .....Maldives-Oman.....0-5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea	3	3	0	0	13	2	9
Oman	3	2	0	1	8	5	6
Malaysia	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Maldives	3	0	0	3	1	12	0

Group B

27.09.02 .....United Arab Emirates-Vietnam.....0-0
27.09.02 .....Yemen-Thailand.....0-3
30.09.02 .....Vietnam-Thailand.....0-3
30.09.02 .....Yemen-United Arab Emirates.....1-2
03.10.02 .....Thailand-United Arab Emirates.....3-1
03.10.02 .....Vietnam-Yemen 0-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Thailand	3	3	0	0	9	1	9
UAE	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Yemen	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Vietnam	3	0	1	2	0	5	1

Group C

27.09.02 .....Turkmenistan-China 0-4
27.09.02 .....India-Bangladesh.....3-0
30.09.02 .....Turkmenistan-India.....1-3
30.09.02 .....Bangladesh-China.....0-3
03.10.02 .....China-India.....2-0
03.10.02 .....Bangladesh-Turkmenistan.....1-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
China	3	3	0	0	9	0	9
India	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Turkmenistan	3	1	0	2	4	8	3
Bangladesh	3	0	0	3	1	9	0

Group D

28.09.02 .....Palestine-Japan.....0-2
28.09.02 .....Uzbekistan-Bahrain 0-3
01.10.02 .....Japan-Bahrain 5-2
01.10.02 .....Uzbekistan-Palestine 2-0
05.10.02 .....Bahrain-Palestine 5-0
05.10.02 .....Japan-Uzbekistan 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Japan	3	3	0	0	8	2	9
Bahrain	3	2	0	1	10	5	6
Uzbekistan	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Palestine	3	0	0	3	0	9	0

Group E

28.09.02 .....Afghanistan-Iran 0-10
28.09.02 .....Qatar-Lebanon 1-1
01.10.02 .....Iran-Lebanon.....2-0
01.10.02 .....Qatar-Afghanistan.....11-0
05.10.02 .....Lebanon-Afghanistan.....11-0
05.10.02 .....Iran-Qatar.....1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	3	2	1	0	13	1	7
Qatar	3	1	2	0	13	2	5
Lebanon	3	1	1	1	12	3	4
Afghanistan	3	0	0	3	0	32	0

Group F

28.09.02 .....Hong Kong-North Korea.....1-2
28.09.02 .....Kuwait-Pakistan.....6-0
01.10.02 .....Kuwait-Hong Kong.....1-0
01.10.02 .....North Korea-Pakistan.....5-0
05.10.02 .....Pakistan-Hong Kong 0-3
05.10.02 .....North Korea-Kuwait 0-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kuwait	3	3	0	0	9	0	9
North Korea	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
Hong Kong	3	1	0	2	4	3	3
Pakistan	3	0	0	3	0	14	0

Group winners plus the two runners-up with the best records qualified for the quarter-finals

Quarter-finals

08.10.02 .....China-Japan.....0-1
08.10.02 .....Iran-Kuwait 1-0
08.10.02 .....South Korea-Bahrain 1-0
08.10.02 .....Thailand-North Korea.....1-0

Semi-finals

10.10.02 .....Japan-Thailand 3-0
10.10.02 .....Iran-South Korea.....0-0
.....*Aet. Iran 5-3 on pens*

Third-place play-off

13.10.02 .....Thailand-South Korea 0-3

Final

Oct 13 - Busan
Iran 2 (Kazemeyan 48, Bayatiniya 87)
Japan 1 (Nakayama 89)
HT: 0-0

EUROPE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

1st group phase

Group A

October 22

Arsenal (Eng) 1 (Kanu 53)
Auxerre (Fra) 2 (Kapo 8, Fadiga 27)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 35,206. **Ref:** Messina (Ita)
Arsenal: Seaman - Lauren (Toure 77), Campbell, Cygan, Cole - Wiltord, Gilberto Silva (Pires 72), Vieira, Ljungberg - Kanu, Henry.
Auxerre: Cool - Radet, Mexes, Boumsong, Jaures - Lachuer, Tainio, Faye, Fadiga - Kapo - Mwaruwari.

Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 1 (Koller 10)
PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 1 (Bruggink 47)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 47,000. **Ref:** Cortez Batista (Por)
Dortmund: Lehmann - Evanilson, Madouni, Worns, Dede - Reuter (Frings 78), Rosicky, Kehl - Ewerthon, Koller, Ricken (Amoroso 72).
PSV: Waterreus - Bogelund, Ooijer, Faber, Heintze (Robben 46) - Rommedahl, Van Bommel, Vogel, Bouma - Bruggink (Ramzi 80), Kezman (Vennegoor of Hesselink 85).

October 30

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Gilberto Silva og 38, Rosicky pen 62)
Arsenal 1 (Henry 18)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 51,200. **Ref:** Mejuto Gonzalez (Spa)
Dortmund: Lehmann - Evanilson, Worns, Metzelder, Dede - Kehl (Reuter 69), Rosicky (Madouni 90), Frings - Ricken (Heinrich 84), Koller, Ewerthon.
Arsenal: Seaman - Lauren, Campbell, Cygan, Cole - Wiltord (Kanu 79), Gilberto Silva (Edu 80), Vieira, Pires (Toure 67) - Ljungberg, Henry.

PSV Eindhoven 3 (Bruggink 34, Rommedahl 48, Robben 64)
Auxerre 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 24,500. **Ref:** Fisker (Den)
PSV: Waterreus - Bogelund, Faber, Hofland, Bouma - Rommedahl, Van Bommel (Van der Schaaf 65), Vogel (Lucius 78), Robben (Ramzi 70) - Bruggink, Kezman.
Auxerre: Cool - Radet, Boumsong, Mexes, Jaures - Lachuer (Sirieix 81), Faye, Mathis, Fadiga (Gonzalez 87) - Kapo, Mwaruwari (Grichting 28). *Sent off: Mexes 26min, Kapo 51min.*

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B Dortmund	5	3	1	1	8	6	10
Arsenal	5	3	0	2	9	4	9
PSV Eindhoven	5	1	2	2	5	8	5
Auxerre	5	1	1	3	3	7	4

Group B

October 22

Basle (Swi) 2 (Ergic 32, 90)
Valencia (Spa) 2 (Baraja 36, Curro Torres 72)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 29,503. **Ref:** Fleischer (Ger)
Basle: Zuberbuhler - Haas, Zwyssig, M Yakin, Duruz - Cantaluppi, Varela (Rossi 65), Esposito (Koumantarakis 85) - H Yakin - Gimenez (Tum 60), Ergic.
Valencia: Canizares - Curro Torres, Ayala, Pellegrino, Fabio Aurelio - Rufete (Angulo 71), De los Santos, Baraja (Marchena 76), Kily Gonzalez - Mista, Sanchez (Carew 80). *Sent off: Ayala 88min.*

Moscow Spartak (Rus) 1 (Danishevski 23)
Liverpool (Eng) 3 (Owen 29, 70, 90)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Plautz (Aut)
Spartak: Levytskyi - Kovtun (Kebe 36), Abramidze, Mitreski (Koudriashov 82), Khlestov - Bezrodny, Pavlenko, Kalinichenko, Sonin (Torbinskiy 60) - Danishevski, Beschastnykh.
Liverpool: Dudek - Carragher, Traore, Hyypia, Riise - Murphy, Hamann, Diao, Heskey (Vignal 56; Biscan 76) - Owen, Baros (Diouf 70).

October 30

Liverpool 0
Valencia 1 (Rufete 34)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 41,831. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
Liverpool: Dudek - Carragher (Cheyrou 82), Traore, Hyypia, Riise - Gerrard, Diao, Hamann, Murphy (Smicer 61) - Heskey (Baros 61), Owen.
Valencia: Canizares - Curro Torres, Pellegrino, Marchena, Carboni - Albelda - Rufete, Baraja, Kily Gonzalez (Vicente 88) - Aimar (Angulo 68), Carew (Mista 79).

November 5

Moscow Spartak 0
Basle 2 (Rossi 18, Gimenez 89)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,500. **Ref:** Dougal (Sco)
Spartak: Levytskyi - Khlestov, Moises, Abramidze, Kovtun - Bezrodny (Koudriashov 46), Beschastnykh, Kebe (Mitreski 77) - Kalinichenko (Torbinskiy 71) - Pavlenko, Danishevski.
Basle: Zuberbuhler - Haas, Zwyssig, M Yakin, Duruz - Ergic, Cantaluppi, Esposito (Atouba 16) - H Yakin - Rossi (Gimenez 67), Tum.

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Valencia	5	4	1	0	14	4	13
Basle	5	2	2	1	9	9	8
Liverpool	5	2	1	2	9	5	7
Moscow Spartak	5	0	0	5	1	15	0

Group C

October 22

Real Madrid (Spa) 2 (McManaman 24, 43)
AEK Athens (Gre) 2 (Katsouranis 74, Centeno 86)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 55,000. **Ref:** Fandel (Ger)
Real Madrid: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Hierro, Ivan Helguera, Roberto Carlos (Raul Bravo 75) - Celades, Cambiasso - McManaman (Minambres 82), Zidane (Solari 61), Guti - Ronaldo.
AEK: Chiotis - Kostenoglou, Wright, Kapsis, Georgatos (Centeno 69) - Lakis, Katsouranis, Zagorakis, Kasapis - Tsartas (Maladenis 54), Nikolaidis (Ivic 54).

Roma (Ita) 0
Genk (Blg) 0
Att: 25,592. **Ref:** Siric (Cro)
Roma: Antonioli - Zebina, Samuel, Panucci - Cafu (Bombardini 84), Tommasi (Guigou 60), Emerson, Lima, Candela - Cassano (Montella 46), Batistuta.
Genk: Schollen - Wamfor, Tomasic, Zokora, Roumani - Beslija, Skoko, Thijs, Daerden (Suzuki 77) - Sonck, Dagano.

October 30

AEK Athens 1 (Lakis 30)
Genk 1 (Sonck 22)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 23,000. **Ref:** Busacca (Swi)
AEK: Chiotis - Kostenoglou, Kapsis, Wright - Georgatos (Maladenis 78), Kasapis, Katsouranis, Lakis, Borbokis (Ivic 66) - Tsartas (Centeno 66), Nikolaidis.
Genk: Moons - Wamfor, Tomasic, Zokora, Roumani - Beslija (Chatelle 90), Thijs, Skoko, Daerden - Sonck, Suzuki (Seyfo 90).

Real Madrid 0
Roma 1 (Totti 27)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Dallas (Sco)
Real Madrid: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Hierro, Ivan Helguera, Roberto Carlos - Makelele, Cambiasso (Guti 86) - Figo, Zidane (Solari 78), Raul - Ronaldo (Morientes 78).
Roma: Antonioli - Panucci, Samuel, Aldair (Zebina 90) - Cafu, Emerson, Tommasi, Candela - Totti - Montella (Batistuta 72), Delvecchio (Lima 88).

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	5	2	2	1	14	6	8
Roma	5	2	2	1	2	3	8
AEK Athens	5	0	5	0	6	6	5
Genk	5	0	3	2	1	8	3

Group D

October 22

Ajax (Hol) 1 (Ibrahimovic 41)
Rosenborg (Nor) 1 (Enerly pen 85)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 42,000. **Ref:** Dauden Ibanez (Spa)
Ajax: Timmer - Trabelsi, Bergdolmo, Chivu, Van Damme - Galasek, Litmanen, Witschge (De Jong 83) - Van der Meyde, Ibrahimovic (Hossam 71), Boukhari. *Sent off: Van Damme 84min.*
Rosenborg: Arason - Strand, Hoftun, Basma, Saarinen - Berg, Skammelsrud (Olsen 39), Brattbakk (Ludvigsen 74) - F Johnsen, Karadas, Enerly.

Lyon (Fra) 3 (Anderson 21, 75, Carriere 44)
Internazionale (Ita) 3 (Cacapa og 31, Crespo 56, 66)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 37,770. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
Lyon: Coupet - Muller, Edmilson, Cacapa, Brechet - Violeau (Vairelles 69), Diarra - Juninho (Laville 58), Carriere, Dhorasoo - Anderson.
Inter: Toldo - J Zanetti, Cordoba, Materazzi, Coco - Sergio Conceicao (Adani 72), Di Biagio (Almeyda 24), Emre, Morfeo - Vieri, Crespo (Recoba 78).

October 30

Internazionale 3 (Recoba 31, Saarinen og 52, Crespo 72)
Rosenborg 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** De Bleeckere (Blg)
Inter: Toldo - J Zanetti, Cannavaro, Materazzi, Coco (Pasquale 87) - Sergio Conceicao, Di Biagio, Emre - Vieri, Crespo (Almeyda 75), Recoba.
Rosenborg: Arason - Strand, Basma, Hoftun, Saarinen - F Johnsen, Skammelsrud, Berg - Enerly (Ludvigsen 80), Brattbakk (Olsen 57), Karadas.

Lyon 0
Ajax 2 (Pienaar 7, Van der Vaart 90)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 38,134. **Ref:** Vassaras (Gre)
Lyon: Coupet - Muller, Cacapa, Edmilson, Brechet - Juninho, Violeau (Vairelles 59), Dhorasoo - Carriere (Luyindula 80) - Govou, Anderson.
Ajax: Didulica - Trabelsi, Bergdolmo, Chivu, Maxwell - Galasek, Pienaar, Sikora (Yakubu 65), De Jong - Ibrahimovic (Van der Meyde 77), Hossam (Van der Vaart 55). *Sent off: Chivu 62min.*

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Internazionale	5	2	2	1	10	7	8
Ajax	5	2	2	1	5	3	8
Lyon	5	2	1	2	11	8	7
Rosenborg	5	0	3	2	3	11	3

Group E

October 23

Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr) 2 (Khatskevich 16, Bialkevich 47)
Feyenoord (Hol) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
Dynamo: Reva - Peev, Gavrancic, Ghioane, Dmytrulin (Sablic 77) - Husin, Khatskevich, Bialkevich, El Kaddouri - Diogo Rincon (Nesmachnyi 57), Shatskikh.
Feyenoord: Zoetebier - Song, Loovens, Paauwe, Van Haaren (Rzasa 56) - Emerton (Bombarda 62), Van Wonderen, Ono, Van Persie (Lurling 39) - Buffel, Kalou.

Newcastle United (Eng) 1 (Griffin 62)
Juventus (Ita) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 48,370. **Ref:** Pedersen (Nor)
Newcastle: Harper - Griffin, Bramble, O'Brien, Hughes - Solano, Jenas, Speed, Robert (Hugo Viana 85) - Lua Lua (Ameobi 86), Shearer.
Juventus: Buffon - Thuram, Ferrara, Iuliano, Birindelli - Tacchinardi - Camoranesi (Zambrotta 69), Nedved, Davids (Conte 46) - Del Piero, Di Vaio (Zalayeta 57).

October 29

Juventus 2 (Di Vaio 4, 69)
Feyenoord 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,789. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Juventus: Buffon - Thuram (Iuliano 71), Ferrara, Tudor (Zambrotta 89), Birindelli - Camoranesi, Tacchinardi, Davids, Nedved (Moretti 82) - Di Vaio, Del Piero.

Feyenoord: Zoetebier (Lodewijks 46) - Song, Van Wonderen, Paauwe, Rzasa - Emerton, Bosvelt, Ono, Lurling - Bombarda, Buffel.

Newcastle United 2 (Speed 58, Shearer pen 69)
Kyiv Dynamo 1 (Shatskikh 47)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,185. **Ref:** Fernandez Marin (Spa)
Newcastle: Harper - Griffin, Bramble (Dabizas 27), O'Brien (Bernard 46), Hughes - Solano (Dyer 82), Speed, Jenas, Robert - Ameobi, Shearer.
Dynamo: Reva - Peev, Husin, Ghioane, Gavrancic, Dmytrulin - Bialkevich, Leko (Diogo Rincon 71), El Kaddouri (Cernat 77) - Nesmachnyi, Shatskikh.

GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	5	3	1	1	10	2	10
Kyiv Dynamo	5	2	1	2	5	7	7
Newcastle	5	2	0	3	3	6	6
Feyenoord	5	1	2	2	2	5	5

Group F

October 23

Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 2 (Babic 45, Juan 67)
Maccabi Haifa (Isr) 1 (Pralija 53)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Poulat (Fra)
Leverkusen: Butt - Sebescen, Lucio, Juan, Placente - Schneider, Ramelow, Basturk, Babic - Franca (Simak 60), Brdaric (Neuville 46).
Maccabi: Awat - Zano (Sivilia 80), Benado, Harazi, Keisi - Badir, Zutautas, Pralija (Israilevich 74) - Rosso, Aiyegbeni, Zandberg (Katan 74).

Olympiakos (Gre) 2 (Choutos 70, Djordjevic 74)
Manchester United (Eng) 3 (Blanc 21, Veron 59, Scholes 84)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Olympiakos: Eleftheropoulos - Patsatzoglou, Anatolakis, Antzas, Venetidis - Giannakopoulos (Mavrogenidis 87), Karembeu, Edu Dracena, Djordjevic - Zetterberg (Ofori-Quaye 71), Giovanni (Choutos 46).
Man Utd: Barthez - G Neville, Blanc, O'Shea, Silvestre - Beckham (Chadwick 63), Veron (Richardson 87), P Neville, Giggs (Fortune 63) - Scholes, Forlan.

October 29

Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Juan 14, Schneider pen 90)
Olympiakos 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Trentalange (Ita)
Leverkusen: Butt - Zivkovic, Lucio, Juan (Ojigwe 45), Placente - Balitsch - Schneider, Basturk, Babic - Berbatov (Brdaric 90), Neuville (Simak 62).
Olympiakos: Eleftheropoulos - Mavrogenidis, Anatolakis (Zetterberg 46), Antzas (Ofori-Quaye 63), Edu Dracena, Venetidis - Patsatzoglou, Giannakopoulos, Karembeu, Djordjevic - Choutos (Giovanni 24).

Maccabi Haifa 3 (Katan 40, Zutautas 56, Aiyegbeni pen 77)
Manchester United 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Lopez Nieto (Spa)
Played in Nicosia, Cyprus
Maccabi: Awat - Zano, Harazi, Benado, Keisi - Badir, Zutautas (Zandberg 81), Pralija - Rosso, Aiyegbeni (Almoshnino 84), Katan.
Man Utd: Ricardo - G Neville, Ferdinand, O'Shea, Silvestre - P Neville, Scholes, Fortune - Forlan (Timm 79), Richardson (Nardiello 61) - Solskjaer.

GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester Utd	5	4	0	1	14	8	12
Bayer Leverkusen	5	3	0	2	9	9	9
Maccabi Haifa	5	2	0	3	9	9	6
Olympiakos	5	1	0	4	8	14	3

Group G

October 23

Lens (Fra) 3 (Coulibaly 61, Moreira 79, Thomert 84)
Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) 1 (Makaay 15)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Ivanov (Bul)
Lens: Warmuz - Coulibaly, Bak, Song, Rool - Diop (Coridon 73), Keita - Utaka, Sibierski (Bakari 73), Thomert (Fanni 86) - Moreira.
Deportivo: Juanmi - Hector, Donato, Naybet, Romero - Mauro Silva, Capdevila (Luque 84) - Sergio, Victor (Scaloni 65), Fran - Makaay (Diego Tristan 70).

Milan (Ita) 2 (Serginho 11, Inzaghi 64)
Bayern Munich (Ger) 1 (Tarnat 23)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 75,611. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
Milan: Dida - Simic, Nesta, Maldini, Kaladze - Ambrosini (Gattuso 46), Pirlo, Seedorf - Rui Costa (Laursen 85) - Inzaghi, Serginho (Dalla Bona 79).
Bayern: Kahn (Wessels 51) - Sagnol, Kuffour, R Kovac, Tarnat - Salihamidzic (Scholl 70), Jeremies, Ballack, Ze Roberto - Elber, Pizarro (Santa Cruz 72).

October 29

Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Victor 54, Makaay 89)
Bayern Munich 1 (Santa Cruz 77)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Deportivo: Juanmi - Scaloni, Naybet, Cesar, Romero - Sergio, Mauro Silva - Victor (Diego Tristan 84), Fran (Acuna 66), Capdevila - Makaay (Donato 90).
Bayern: Wessels - Sagnol, R Kovac, Kuffour, Tarnat (Lizarazu 60) - Salihamidzic (Santa Cruz 46), Jeremies, Scholl, Ballack (Fink 52), Ze Roberto - Elber.

Lens 2 (Moreira 41, Utaka 49)
Milan 1 (Shevchenko 31)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Barber (Eng)
Lens: Warmuz - Coulibaly, Bak, Song, Rool - Diop (Coly 57), Keita - Coridon, Sibierski (Diagne-Faye 87) - Utaka, Moreira (Thomert 90).
Milan: Abbiati - Helveg, Costacurta, Laursen, Maldini (Kaladze 65) - Pirlo - Dalla Bona, Ambrosini, Serginho (Seedorf 65) - Tomasson, Shevchenko (Borriello 46).

GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	5	4	0	1	11	5	12
Dep La Coruna	5	3	0	2	9	11	9
Lens	5	2	1	2	8	8	7
Bayern Munich	5	0	1	4	6	10	1

Group H

October 23

Barcelona (Spa) 1 (De Boer 76)
Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 62,000. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
Barcelona: Bonano - Puyol, De Boer, Fernando - Mendieta (Rochemback 66), Xavi, Gabri, Cocu - Saviola, Kluivert, Riquelme.
Lokomotiv: Ovchinnikov - Pachinin, Ignashevich, Sennikov - Obradovic, Maminov, Julio Cesar (Buznikin 84), Loskov, Evseev - Pimenov, Obiorah.

Club Brugge (Blg) 3 (Martens 45, Verheyen 72, Saeternes 90)
Galatasaray (Tur) 1 (Fabio Pinto 56)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** De Santis (Ita)
Brugge: Verlinden - Maertens, Simons, Clement - De Cock, Englebert, Ceh (Saeternes 64), Van der Heyden - Stoica (Spilar 84) - Verheyen (Smolders 90), Martens.
Galatasaray: Mondragon - Mehmet (Jorge Felipe 46), Emre Asik (Christian 82), Bulent Korkmaz, Hakan Unsal - Cihan, Umit Davala, Ergun, Baljic - Arif (Ayhan 55), Fabio Pinto.

October 29

Club Brugge 0
Barcelona 1 (Riquelme 64)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 23,000. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)
Brugge: Verlinden - Maertens, Clement (Spilar 68), Lesnjak (Saeternes 80) - De Cock, Simons, Englebert, Van der Heyden (Ristic 68) - Stoica - Verheyen, Martens.
Barcelona: Enke - Puyol, Dani Tortolero, Fernando - Gabri (Sanchez 89), Gerard, Iniesta, Rochemback - Riquelme, Dani Garcia, Geovanni (De la Fuente 62).

Galatasaray 1 (Hasan Sas 73)
Lokomotiv Moscow 2 (Loskov 70, Evseev 75)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Galatasaray: Mondragon - Umit Davala, Emre Asik, Bulent Korkmaz, Hakan Unsal - Cihan (Jorge Felipe 70), Fabio Pinto, Ergun, Baljic (Hasan Sas 46) - Christian, Arif (Joao Batista 46).
Lokomotiv: Ovchinnikov - Nizhegorodov, Lekgetho, Ignashevich, Evseev - Sennikov, Pachinin, Maminov, Loskov - Obiorah (Julio Cesar 78), Pimenov.

GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	5	5	0	0	10	3	15
Club Brugge	5	1	2	2	5	5	5
Galatasaray	5	1	1	3	4	7	4
Lokomotiv M	5	1	1	3	3	7	4

UEFA CUP

2nd rnd, 1st legs

October 29

Djurgardens (Swe) 0
Bordeaux (Fra) 1 (Feindouno 63)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Stredak (Slk)

Legia Warsaw (Pol) 2 (Dudek 57, Svitlica pen 61)
Schalke (Ger) 3 (Varela 49, 53, Sand 89)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Esquinas Torres (Spa)

Viktoria Zizkov (Cze) 0
Real Betis (Spa) 1 (Denilson 44)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ersoy (Tur)

October 31

Alaves (Spa) 1 (Abelardo 90)
Besiktas (Tur) 1 (Karmona og 31)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Benes (Cze)

Anderlecht (Blg) 3 (Jestrovic 55, pen 61, Dindane 71)
Midtjylland (Den) 1 (Kristensen 80)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Almeida Costa (Por)

APOEL Nicosia (Cyp) 0
Hertha Berlin (Ger) 1 (Karwan 90)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Gallagher (Eng)

Austria Wien (Aut) 0
FC Porto (Por) 1 (Derlei 70)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Jakobsson (Ice)

Boavista (Por) 2 (E Silva 31, Eder 50)
Anorthosis Famagusta (Cyp) 1 (Michalski 84)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Hanacsek (Hun)

Celta Vigo (Spa) 3 (Jose Ignacio 35, Edu 37, McCarthy 75)
Viking Stavanger (Nor) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Farina (Ita)

Celtic (Sco) 1 (Larsson 85)
Blackburn Rovers (Eng) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Albrecht (Ger)

Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) 0
Fulham (Eng) 3 (Boa Morte 36, Marlet 60, Hayles 78)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Iturralde Gonzalez (Spa)
Sent off: Polovanec (Dinamo) 33min

Fenerbahce (Tur) 1 (Washington 42)
Panathinaikos (Gre) 1 (Basinas 14)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Rodomonti (Ita)

Ferencvaros (Hun) 0
Stuttgart (Ger) 0
Ref: Vuorela (Fin)

Ipswich (Eng) 1 (D Bent 68)
Slovan Liberec (Cze) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Leuba (Swi)

Lazio (Ita) 1 (Fiore 10)
Red Star Belgrade (Yug) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Tokat (Tur)

Leeds United (Eng) 1 (Kewell 81)
Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Van Hulten (Hol)

Malaga (Spa) 2 (Romero 39, Dely Valdes 69)
Amica Wronki (Pol) 1 (Krol 2)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Tudor (Rom)

National Bucharest (Rom) 0
Paris Saint-Germain (Fra) 2 (L Leroy 5, Andre Luiz 69)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Bennett (Eng)
Sent off: J Leroy (PSG) 64min

PAOK Salonika (Gre) 2 (Chasiotis 3, Yiasoumi 48)
Grasshopper (Swi) 1 (Nunez pen 64)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Huyghe (Blg)

Parma (Ita) 2 (Donati 26, Mutu 74)
Wisla Krakow (Pol) 1 (Zurawski 46)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Yefet (Isr)

Partizan Belgrade (Yug) 3 (Lazovic 4, Sasa Ilic 32, Vukic 69)
Slavia Prague (Cze) 1 (Dostalek 56)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Gomes Costa (Por)

Sparta Prague (Cze) 1 (Jarosik 20)
Denizlispor (Tur) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Frojdfeldt (Swe)

Sturm Graz (Aut) 1 (Szabics 21)
Levski Sofia (Bul) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Vidlak (Cze)
Sent off: Marcelo Vieira (Levski) 85min

Vitesse Arnhem (Hol) 2 (Amoah 37, Verlaat og 62)
Werder Bremen (Ger) 1 (Verlaat 43)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** McCurry (Sco)

2nd rnd, 2nd legs

November 7

Hertha Berlin 4 (Preetz 8, Marcelinho 13, Beinlich 61, Luizao 66)
APOEL Nicosia 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Vollquartz (Den)
Hertha 5-0 on agg

AUSTRIA

Oct 19: Austria Wien 0 Salzburg 0; Grazer AK 2 Karnten 0; Pasching 2 Rapid Wien 0; Admira 1 SV Ried 1.
Oct 20: Bregenz 3 Sturm Graz 0.
Oct 26: Bregenz 2 Pasching 2; SV Ried 3 Karnten 0; Salzburg 1 Grazer AK 1; Sturm Graz 3 Admira 0.
Oct 27: Rapid Wien 1 Austria Wien 2.
Nov 2: Karnten 0 Salzburg 1; Grazer AK 2 Rapid Wien 0; Pasching 1 SV Ried 1; Admira 2 Bregenz 2.
Nov 3: Austria Wien 4 Sturm Graz 0.
Nov 6: Bregenz 0 Austria Wien 1; Rapid Wien 2 Karnten 0; SV Ried 4 Salzburg 0; Sturm Graz 1 Grazer AK 1; Admira 3 Pasching 1.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria Wien	17	12	4	1	38	9	40
Pasching	17	8	4	5	24	18	28
Sturm Graz	17	8	2	7	26	28	26
SV Ried	17	6	6	5	22	17	24
Rapid Wien	17	6	5	6	21	18	23
Karnten	17	5	4	8	21	25	19
Grazer AK	17	4	7	6	19	24	19
Bregenz	17	3	8	6	20	24	17
Salzburg	17	4	5	8	14	26	17
Admira	17	4	5	8	17	33	17

BELGIUM

Saturday, October 19

Anderlecht 2 (Ilic 52, Ciobotariu og 80)
Mons 1 (La Placa 67) Att: 23,850

Charleroi 2 (Eduardo 24, Kolotilko 85)
Club Brugge 3 (Kargbo og 41, Simons pen 47, Schockaert 80) Att: 12,120

Genk 4 (Sonck 20, Beslija 23, Thijs 30, Vandenbergh 89)
Beveren 0 Att: 23,795

Gent 2 (Kraouche pen 53, Kaklamanos 65)
Lokeren 3 (Gretarsson 30, 45, De Beule 37) Att: 9,460

Mechelen 5 (Viscaal 27, Boeka-Lisasi 39, 64, Dosunmu 78, Greven 83)
Lommel 1 (Haeldermans 53) Att: 5,200

Royal Antwerp 1 (Sergeant 2)
St Truiden 3 (Mbonabucya 36, 38, Pereira 62) Att: 7,000

Standard 2 (Walem 16, 50)
Germinal Beerschot 1 (Kpaka 65) Att: 10,400

Sunday, October 20

Mouscron 1 (Gregoire 60)
Lierse 1 (Huysegems 76) Att: 9,000

Westerlo 0
La Louviere 3 (Tilmant 20, Cooreman 45, Teelen 85) Att: 3,500

Saturday, October 26

Beveren 2 (Zezeto 44, Wostijn 70)
Westerlo 1 (Mennes 87) Att: 3,500

Germinal Beerschot 2 (Walker 34, Quansah 40)
Gent 1 (Oyawole 72) Att: 8,000

Lierse 2 (Huysegems 11, Schaessens 62)
Charleroi 1 (Kere 53) Att: 6,800

Lommel 1 (Tankary 81)
Standard 0 Att: 8,000

Mons 1 (Guedes de Souza 70)
Genk 2 (Thijs 7, Vandenbergh 85) Att: 8,000

Monday, October 28

La Louviere 1 (Tilmant 37)
Mechelen 1 (Boeka-Lisasi 29) Att: 4,500

Lokeren 2 (Kimoto 37, 64)
Royal Antwerp 1 (Mussa 48) Att: 6,300

Saturday, November 2

Charleroi 2 (Aliaj 15, Kargbo 66)
St Truiden 2 (Van Geel 70, Boffin pen 86) Att: 8,633

Gent 3 (Kaklamanos 10, 57, 63)
Lommel 1 (Schoofs 33) Att: 7,602

Mons 1 (Roussel 78)
Club Brugge 2 (De Cock 49, Delwarte og 90) Att: 8,000

Mouscron 1 (Zewlakow 5)
Lokeren 1 (De Beule 10) Att: 9,403

Standard 1 (Da Silva Moreira 85)
La Louviere 0 Att: 13,500

Sunday, November 3

Genk 1 (Sonck 2)
Westerlo 1 (Wagemakers 35) Att: 23,236

Mechelen 0
Beveren 2 (Wostijn 42, Toure 44) Att: 5,750

Royal Antwerp 5 (Goots 27, Pinxten 35, Mussa 58, 61, Yattara 63)
Germinal Beerschot 3 (Quansah 9, 23, Kpaka 25) Att: 16,500

Monday, November 4

Anderlecht 1 (Seol 30)
Lierse 2 (Schaessens 21, Huysegems 90) Att: 23,459

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	10	9	1	0	26	7	28
Lierse	11	8	2	1	20	8	26
Lokeren	11	7	3	1	24	15	24
Genk	11	6	4	1	27	14	22
St Truiden	10	6	3	1	31	15	21
Anderlecht	10	6	2	2	24	13	20
Mons	11	5	1	5	19	13	16
Germinal B	11	4	2	5	21	24	14
La Louviere	11	3	4	4	12	11	13
Mouscron	10	3	3	4	20	25	12
Royal Antwerp	11	3	3	5	18	23	12
Gent	11	3	2	6	18	22	11
Lommel	11	3	2	6	12	19	11
Beveren	11	3	1	7	10	21	10
Standard	11	2	3	6	12	20	9
Mechelen	11	2	3	6	13	24	9
Westerlo	11	2	1	8	7	25	7
Charleroi	11	0	4	7	12	27	4

LEADING GOALSCORERS
9 Stein Huysegems (Lierse)
8 Alexandros Kaklamanos (Gent)
8 Paul Kpaka (Germinal Beerschot)
8 Seol Ki-hyeun (Anderlecht)
8 Wesley Sonck (Genk)

BULGARIA

Oct 19: Chernomorets 3 Rilski Sportist 0; Cherno More 2 Dobrudzha 1; Marek 1 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 2; Levski 3 Lokomotiv Sofia 0; Botev 1 Spartak Varna 1; Lovech 4 Naftex 1.
Oct 20: Slavia 0 CSKA 2.
Oct 25: Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1 Slavia 0.
Oct 26: Spartak Varna 0 Lovech 2; Lokomotiv Sofia 1 Botev 0; CSKA 3 Levski 0; Dobrudzha 0 Marek 1; Chernomorets 1 Cherno More 2.
Nov 2: Cherno More 4 Rilski Sportist 0; Marek 0 Chernomorets 1; Slavia 6 Dobrudzha 1; Naftex 1 Spartak Varna 0; Botev 1 CSKA 5.
Nov 3: Levski 3 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1; Lovech 4 Lokomotiv Sofia 0.
Nov 6: Rilski Sportist 1 Naftex 2.

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA	11	11	0	0	33	5	33
Lovech	11	8	2	1	21	4	26
Levski	11	8	1	2	23	11	25
Lok Plovdiv	11	7	1	3	24	12	22
Slavia	11	6	1	4	25	14	19
Cherno More	11	5	3	3	13	10	18
Naftex	11	6	0	5	15	17	18
Chernomorets	11	5	1	5	15	14	16
Marek	11	4	1	6	14	16	13
Lok Sofia	11	3	3	5	9	13	12
Spartak Varna	11	3	1	7	11	18	10
Botev	11	2	1	8	9	28	7
Rilski Sportist	11	0	2	9	7	25	2
Dobrudzha	11	0	1	10	6	38	1

CROATIA

Oct 19: Cibalia 3 Osijek 1; Dinamo 1 Kamen Ingrad 1; Slaven 2 Sibenik 1; Pomorac 1 Rijeka 0; Zadar 1 Varteks 5.
Oct 20: Hajduk 3 Zagreb 0.
Oct 26: Zadar 1 Rijeka 0; Pomorac 1 Sibenik 1; Slaven 1 Kamen Ingrad 2; Dinamo 4 Cibalia 1.
Oct 27: Hajduk 3 Varteks 1.
Oct 29: Osijek 2 Zagreb 2.
Nov 2: Cibalia 1 Slaven 0; Kamen Ingrad 2 Pomorac 1; Sibenik 3 Zadar 3; Rijeka 0 Hajduk 1; Varteks 2 Zagreb 0.
Nov 3: Dinamo 6 Osijek 0.

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hajduk	13	10	1	2	21	8	31
Dinamo	13	9	3	1	30	10	30
Varteks	13	8	0	5	24	14	24
Kamen Ingrad	13	6	6	1	14	11	24
Cibalia	13	7	2	4	21	15	23
Slaven	13	7	0	6	15	15	21
Zagreb	13	4	5	4	14	16	17
Rijeka	13	4	0	9	17	18	12
Osijek	13	3	3	7	14	27	12
Zadar	13	2	4	7	11	24	10
Sibenik	13	1	4	8	14	25	7
Pomorac	13	1	4	8	16	28	7

CZECH REPUBLIC

Oct 19: Sparta 2 Zizkov 0.
Oct 20: Bohemians 0 Olomouc 0; Liberec 3 Chmel Blsany 1; Teplice 2 Pribram 0; Ceske Budejovice 4 Jablonec 1; Synot 3 Zlin 1; Brno 0 Hradec Kralove 0.
Oct 21: Ostrava 1 Slavia 1.
Oct 26: Jablonec 0 Sparta 2; Zizkov 4 Liberec 0.
Oct 27: Chmel Blsany 1 Ostrava 0; Hradec Kralove 1 Synot 1; Zlin 1 Ceske Budejovice 2; Olomouc 0 Teplice 1; Slavia 2 Brno 0.
Oct 28: Pribram 4 Bohemians 1.
Nov 2: Brno 4 Zizkov 1.
Nov 3: Synot 1 Pribram 0; Ostrava 4 Hradec Kralove 0; Teplice 3 Jablonec 0; Ceske Budejovice 3 Olomouc 1.
Nov 4: Sparta 3 Bohemians 0; Liberec 2 Zlin 0; Slavia 2 Chmel Blsany 0.

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta	12	9	3	0	22	3	30
Slavia	12	7	4	1	23	8	25
Liberec	12	7	2	3	19	13	23
Teplice	12	7	0	5	17	15	21
Ostrava	12	6	2	4	19	12	20
Zizkov	12	5	3	4	17	15	18
Jablonec	12	4	4	4	13	19	16
Pribram	12	4	3	5	10	10	15
Synot	12	4	3	5	12	15	15
Chmel Blsany	12	4	3	5	10	13	15
Ceske Budejovice	12	5	0	7	18	24	15
Brno	12	4	2	6	15	16	14
Olomouc	12	2	5	5	11	13	11
Zlin	12	2	4	6	11	20	10
Bohemians	12	2	3	7	14	25	9
Hradec Kralove	12	0	7	5	7	17	7

DENMARK

Oct 19: FC Copenhagen 1 Midtjylland 1.
Oct 20: AaB 3 Silkeborg 4; Esbjerg 0 Farum 2; AB 1 Brondby 1; Viborg 0 OB 0; AGF 1 Koge 3.
Oct 26: Viborg 0 FC Copenhagen 3.
Oct 27: Brondby 1 AaB 0; Farum 1 Midtjylland 0; Koge 1 Esbjerg 4; OB 0 AB 0; Silkeborg 2 AGF 1.
Nov 2: AGF 2 Brondby 1.
Nov 3: AaB 2 OB 1; Esbjerg 1 Silkeborg 1; AB 1 Viborg 1; Midtjylland 5 Koge 0; FC Copenhagen 4 Farum 0.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Copenhagen	14	9	3	2	25	15	30
Esbjerg	14	6	4	4	30	26	22
AaB	14	7	1	6	21	20	22
Brondby	14	6	3	5	25	17	21
Farum	14	7	0	7	18	21	21
Midtjylland	14	5	4	5	21	19	19
OB	14	5	3	6	20	18	18
AGF	14	5	3	6	20	24	18
Silkeborg	14	4	4	6	17	19	16
Koge	14	5	1	8	22	32	16
AB	14	3	6	5	15	18	15
Viborg	14	3	6	5	21	26	15

ENGLAND

Saturday, October 19

Blackburn 5 (Dunn pen 4, 8, Taylor 55, 74, Griffin og 65)
Newcastle 2 (Shearer pen 36, 48) Att: 27,307

Everton 2 (Radzinski 22, Rooney 90)
Arsenal 1 (Ljungberg 8) Att: 39,038

Fulham 1 (Marlet 35)
Manchester Utd 1 (Solskjaer 62) Att: 18,103

Leeds 0
Liverpool 1 (Diao 66) Att: 40,187

Manchester City 0
Chelsea 3 (Zola 69, 84, Hasselbaink 85) Att: 34,953

Sunderland 0
West Ham 1 (Sinclair 23) Att: 44,352

West Brom 1 (Roberts 87)
Birmingham 1 (Moore og 86) Att: 27,021

Sunday, October 20

Charlton 1 (Euell 5)
Middlesbrough 0 Att: 26,271

Tottenham 3 (Keane 58, 74, Davies 90)
Bolton 1 (Djorkaeff 63) Att: 35,909

Monday, October 21

Aston Villa 0
Southampton 1 (Beattie pen 47) Att: 25,817

Wednesday, October 23

Fulham 0
West Ham 1 (Di Canio pen 90) Att: 15,858

Saturday, October 26

Arsenal 1 (Edu 45)
Blackburn 2 (Edu og 6, Yorke 51) Att: 38,064

Birmingham 0
Manchester City 2 (Sun 24, Anelka 87) Att: 29,316

Chelsea 2 (Hasselbaink 30, Le Saux 55)
West Brom 0 Att: 40,893

Liverpool 2 (Murphy 72, Owen pen 86)
Tottenham 1 (Richards 82) Att: 44,084

Manchester Utd 1 (Forlan 77)
Aston Villa 1 (Mellberg 35) Att: 67,619

Middlesbrough 2 (Job 25, Southgate 83)
Leeds 2 (Viduka pen 11, Bowyer 56) Att: 34,723

Newcastle 2 (Griffin 37, Robert 59)
Charlton 1 (Bartlett 30) Att: 51,670

Sunday, October 27

Southampton 4 (Beattie pen 27, 42, 53, Ormerod 72)
Fulham 2 (Clark 15, Malbranque 25) Att: 26,188

West Ham 0
Everton 1 (Carsley 70) Att: 34,117

Monday, October 28

Bolton 1 (Babb og 80)
Sunderland 1 (Gray 45) Att: 23,036

Saturday, November 2

Birmingham 3 (Purse 61, Savage 72, Horsfield 83)
Bolton 1 (Okocha 71) Att: 27,224

Liverpool 2 (Owen 28, 55)
West Ham 0 Att: 44,048

Manchester Utd 2 (P Neville 15, Forlan 85)
Southampton 1 (Fernandes 18) Att: 67,691

West Brom 1 (Clement 62)
Manchester City 2 (Anelka 51, Goater 71) Att: 27,044

Sunday, November 3

Blackburn 0
Aston Villa 0 Att: 23,004

Charlton 1 (Rowett 77)
Sunderland 1 (Flo 15) Att: 26,284

Fulham 0
Arsenal 1 (Marlet og 31) Att: 18,800

Leeds 0
Everton 1 (Rooney 80) Att: 40,168

Tottenham 0
Chelsea 0 Att: 36,049

Monday, November 4

Newcastle 2 (Ameobi 20, Caldwell 87)
Middlesbrough 0 Att: 51,558

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	12	9	3	0	24	9	30
Arsenal	12	8	2	2	27	13	26
Man Utd	12	6	4	2	16	9	22
Chelsea	12	5	5	2	20	12	20
Tottenham	12	6	2	4	17	16	20
Everton	12	6	2	4	15	15	20
Blackburn	12	5	4	3	18	13	19
Newcastle	11	6	1	4	18	15	19
Middlesbrough	12	5	3	4	15	10	18
Southampton	12	4	4	4	12	12	16
Fulham	12	4	3	5	16	15	15
Birmingham	12	4	3	5	14	15	15
Leeds	12	4	2	6	13	13	14
Man City	12	4	2	6	11	18	14
Aston Villa	12	3	3	6	7	11	12
Charlton	12	3	2	7	10	17	11
West Ham	12	3	2	7	10	19	11
Sunderland	12	2	4	6	6	16	10
West Brom	12	3	1	8	9	20	10
Bolton	11	2	2	7	11	21	8

LEADING GOALSCORERS
8 Michael Owen (Liverpool)
8 Gianfranco Zola (Chelsea)
7 Alan Shearer (Newcastle)

FRANCE

Saturday, October 19

Bastia 3 (Mendy 2, Maurice 5, Gourvennec 57)
Le Havre 1 (Fauconnier 63) Att: 6,018

Guingamp 3 (Moullec og 40, Le Roux 61, Eloi 69)
Montpellier 1 (Rouviere 55) Att: 13,758

Lens 1 (Sibierski pen 83)
Ajaccio 1 (Alicarte 39) Att: 36,326

Lyon 3 (Juninho 36, 51, 77)
Auxerre 0 Att: 40,105

Monaco 1 (Giuly 66)
Lille 1 (Moussilou 70) Att: 5,000

Nantes 0
Nice 0 Att: 32,000

Sedan 1 (Oulida 90)
Rennes 3 (Piquionne 41, Maoulida 70, N'Diaye 78) Att: 13,000

Sochaux 2 (Pagis 33, 50)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 19,082

Troyes 1 (Saifi 18)
Paris SG 2 (Cardetti 5, Ronaldinho 8) Att: 13,976

Sunday, October 20

Marseille 1 (Fernandao 24)
Strasbourg 0 Att: 45,000

Friday, October 25

Bordeaux 2 (Darcheville 31, Savio 67)
Monaco 2 (Giuly 20, Nonda 44) Att: 27,929

Saturday, October 26

Ajaccio 0
Lyon 1 (Vairelles 32) Att: 8,500

Auxerre 1 (Kapo 67)
Rennes 0 Att: 9,000

Guingamp 0
Sedan 1 (Liri 77) Att: 14,380

Le Havre 1 (Sinama-Pongolle 76)
Nantes 1 (Gillet pen 11) Att: 11,420

Lille 1 (Sterjovski pen 55)
Sochaux 0 Att: 14,981

Montpellier 2 (Silvestre 44, pen 76)
Troyes 2 (Baticle 23, Gousse 63) Att: 9,357

Nice 0
Lens 0 Att: 15,767

Paris SG 3 (Ronaldinho 15, pen 38, Cardetti 82)
Marseille 0 Att: 41,949

Strasbourg 2 (Beye 23, Laurent 70)
Bastia 0 Att: 11,141

Saturday, November 2

Bastia 1 (Laslandes 24)
Lille 0 Att: 6,278

Lens 3 (Song 36, Sibierski 45, Sikora 90)
Auxerre 1 (Faye 5) Att: 39,852

Lyon 2 (Anderson 49, Delmotte 66)
Nice 2 (Diawara 40, Abardonado 90) Att: 37,511

Marseille 2 (Bakayoko 32, Silvestre og 61)
Montpellier 0 Att: 50,000

Monaco 1 (Giuly 31)
Le Havre 1 (Sinama-Pongolle 59) Att: 5,000

Rennes 0
Ajaccio 0 Att: 20,236

Sochaux 2 (Santos 6, Ismael og 49)
Strasbourg 0 Att: 18,555

Troyes 0
Guingamp 2 (Drogba 30, Eloi 59) Att: 10,715

Sunday, November 3

Nantes 0
Bordeaux 0 Att: 32,000

Sedan 3 (Noro 9, Asuar 51, 69)
Paris SG 1 (Dehu 35) Att: 22,000

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Auxerre	13	7	3	3	18	13	24
Paris SG	13	6	5	2	22	11	23
Nice	13	6	5	2	18	7	23
Marseille	13	7	2	4	16	15	23
Lyon	13	6	4	3	25	15	22
Sochaux	13	6	4	3	16	10	22
Lens	13	5	6	2	13	8	21
Monaco	13	5	5	3	19	13	20
Strasbourg	13	5	4	4	17	21	19
Guingamp	13	5	3	5	19	18	18
Bordeaux	13	4	5	4	13	12	17
Lille	13	4	5	4	11	13	17
Bastia	13	5	2	6	14	17	17
Sedan	13	4	4	5	17	20	16
Ajaccio	13	3	5	5	9	13	14
Nantes	13	3	4	6	11	16	13
Le Havre	13	2	6	5	10	18	12
Montpellier	13	2	4	7	9	18	10
Rennes	13	2	3	8	9	18	9
Troyes	13	1	5	7	8	18	8

LEADING GOALSCORERS
7 Sonny Anderson (Lyon)
7 Martin Cardetti (Paris SG)
7 Kaba Diawara (Nice)
7 Juninho Pernambucano (Lyon)
7 Benjamin Mwaruwari (Auxerre)
7 Shabani Nonda (Monaco)

GERMANY

Saturday, October 19

Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Brdaric 19)
Kaiserslautern 0 Att: 22,500

Borussia Dortmund 0
Arminia Bielefeld 0 Att: 68,600

Energie Cottbus 0
Hertha 2 (Marcelinho 22, Alves 44) Att: 13,612

Hamburg 1 (Meijer 47)
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 51,616

Hannover 4 (Krupnikovic 6, Idrissou 39, Bobic 81, 83)
Werder Bremen 4 (Verlaat 10, Ailton 52, Haristeas 60, Micoud 67) Att: 45,958

Hansa Rostock 0
Bayern Munich 1 (Ze Roberto 73) Att: 30,000

1860 Munich 3 (Lauth 60, 76, Schroth 80)
Schalke 0 Att: 30,000

Sunday, October 20

Bochum 4 (Christiansen 5, Fahrenhorst 56, Freier 57, Hashemian 82)
Wolfsburg 2 (Klimowicz 6, Ponte 37) Att: 18,858

Nurnberg 1 (Jarolim 44)
Stuttgart 2 (Kuranyi 80, Amanatidis 84) Att: 29,500

Saturday, October 26

Arminia Bielefeld 2 (Diabang 14, 57)
Hamburg 1 (Meijer 66) Att: 25,200

Bayern Munich 3 (Elber 4, 80, Scholl 75)
Hannover 3 (Zuraw 16, Stendel 44, Kuffour og 82) Att: 52,000

Hertha 1 (Friedrich 20)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Juan 54) Att: 43,146

Monchengladbach 0
1860 Munich 1 (Schroth 46) Att: 26,900

Schalke 1 (Vermant 90)
Nurnberg 1 (Ciric 12) Att: 60,601

Stuttgart 0
Energie Cottbus 0 Att: 23,000

Werder Bremen 1 (Ernst 35)
Borussia Dortmund 4 (Frings 2, Dede 71, Ewerthon 75, 85) Att: 37,100

Sunday, October 27

Wolfsburg 1 (Klimowicz 29)
Hansa Rostock 0 Att: 10,000

Saturday, November 2

Bayer Leverkusen 0
Stuttgart 1 (Meissner 19) Att: 22,500

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Rosicky 67)
Hamburg 1 (Christensen 89) Att: 68,600

Energie Cottbus 0
Schalke 1 (Moller 79) Att: 13,340

Hannover 3 (Stendel 23, Bobic 28, Konstantinidis 82)
Wolfsburg 1 (Munteanu 76) Att: 38,686

Hansa Rostock 2 (Rydlewicz 17, Vorbeck 71)
Kaiserslautern 2 (Lokvenc 22, Mifsud 78) Att: 18,400

1860 Munich 3 (Suker 14, Lauth 30, 38)
Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Wichniarek 15) Att: 22,000

Nurnberg 2 (Nikl 8, Ciric pen 22)
Monchengladbach 1 (Strasser 75) Att: 30,600

Sunday, November 3

Bochum 3 (Wosz 49, Freier 79, Gudjonsson 90)
Hertha 0 Att: 18,000

Werder Bremen 2 (Daun 17, Krstajic 80)
Bayern Munich 0 Att: 40,200

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	11	7	2	2	26	13	23
B Dortmund	11	5	6	0	17	7	21
1860 Munich	11	6	2	3	18	13	20
Werder Bremen	11	6	2	3	21	19	20
Schalke	11	5	4	2	14	10	19
Bochum	10	5	2	3	23	16	17
Stuttgart	11	4	5	2	17	12	17
Hertha	11	4	4	3	12	11	16
Wolfsburg	11	5	1	5	12	14	16
Hansa Rostock	11	4	2	5	13	10	14
Arminia Bielefeld	11	4	2	5	12	19	14
Nurnberg	11	4	1	6	14	18	13
Hamburg	11	4	1	6	12	18	13
B Leverkusen	11	3	3	5	14	18	12
Hannover	11	3	3	5	21	26	12
M'gladbach	11	3	2	6	11	10	11
Kaiserslautern	10	1	4	5	9	14	7
Energie Cottbus	11	1	2	8	5	23	5

LEADING GOALSCORERS
10 Giovane Elber (Bayern Munich)
8 Sasa Ciric (Nurnberg)

GREECE

Oct 26: PAOK 1 Olympiakos 1; AEK 1 Kallithea 0.
Oct 27: Iraklis 1 Akratitos 0; Aigaleo 0 Panionios 0; Giannina 3 Panahaiki 0; Proodeftiki 0 OFI 0; Panathinaikos 3 Aris 2; Ionikos 0 Xanthi 0.
Nov 2: Kallithea 0 Ionikos 1.
Nov 3: Aigaleo 0 Iraklis 2; Panionios 2 Giannina 0; Olympiakos 0 Proodeftiki 0; Panahaiki 0 Panathinaikos 3; Aris 1 Xanthi 1; Akratitos 1 PAOK 3; OFI 1 AEK 0.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panionios	6	4	1	1	9	2	13
Iraklis	6	4	1	1	11	5	13
AEK	6	4	1	1	7	3	13
Olympiakos	6	3	3	0	9	3	12
PAOK	6	3	2	1	14	9	11
Proodeftiki	6	2	4	0	4	2	10
Aris	6	3	1	2	7	7	10
Aigaleo	6	2	3	1	6	3	9
Panathinaikos	6	3	0	3	8	8	9
Ionikos	6	2	2	2	4	5	8
Xanthi	6	1	4	1	4	4	7
OFI	6	1	2	3	4	8	5
Kallithea	6	1	1	4	4	8	4
Akratitos	6	1	1	4	4	10	4
Giannina	6	1	0	5	6	11	3
Panahaiki	6	0	0	6	0	13	0

HOLLAND

Friday, October 18

De Graafschap 1 (Smit 87)
NEC 3 (Ax 61, Hristov 70, Hesp pen 88) Att: 11,000

Saturday, October 19

Ajax 6 (Hossam 10, 12, Litmanen 22, 47, Boukhari 79, 84)
AZ 2 (Perez 3, 60) Att: 47,481

PSV 0
Roda JC 0 Att: 31,000

Twente 1 (El Brazi 90)
Heerenveen 1 (Nurmela pen 69) Att: 13,250

Vitesse 1 (Amoah 30)
Feyenoord 1 (Buffel 57) Att: 26,000

Willem II 3 (Keller og 13, Shoukov 29, Ceesay 56)
RBC 1 (Den Ouden 77) Att: 13,500

Sunday, October 20

Excelsior 1 (Lopes 3)
Utrecht 1 (Van den Bergh 31) Att: 3,000

Groningen 2 (Drent 84, Salmon 90)
RKC 3 (Cornelisse 6, 57, Van den Berg 46) Att: 11,500

Zwolle 0
NAC 3 (Engelaar 24, Feher 34, Penders 49) Att: 6,250

Tuesday, October 22

Vitesse 0
Roda JC 2 (Sonko 43, Sergio pen 62) Att: 22,000

Friday, October 25

NAC 0
Vitesse 0 Att: 14,858

Saturday, October 26

AZ 1 (Meerdink 54)
Twente 2 (Cziommer 24, Cairo 35) Att: 6,934

Feyenoord 5 (Bosvelt 16, Kalou 44, Lurling 48, 66, Song 51)
Willem II 1 (Van der Gun 40) Att: 44,000

Heerenveen 2 (Vayrynen 67, 90)
Excelsior 0 Att: 14,200

NEC 0
PSV 5 (Bruggink 1, 36, Rommedahl 68, Kezman 71, Robben 85) Att: 12,250

RKC 1 (Hoogendorp 58)
Ajax 1 (Maxwell 70) Att: 7,300

Roda JC 5 (Cristiano 39, Anastasiou pen 44, 70, Soetaers 45, Sonko 76)
De Graafschap 0 Att: 13,000

Friday, November 1

Zwolle 5 (Schops 1, Promes 11, 29, 45, Bosschaart 44)
AZ 1 (Perez 54) Att: 5,000

Saturday, November 2

Excelsior 0
NEC 0 Att: 3,356

Heerenveen 3 (Hansson 14, 53, Denneboom 55)
De Graafschap 1 (Van de Haar 44) Att: 14,200

RBC 0
RKC 0 Att: 5,000

Twente 0
PSV 0 Att: 13,500

Sunday, November 3

Ajax 3 (Hossam 9, Van der Vaart 73, Pienaar 88)
Willem II 0 Att: 48,248

Groningen 0
Feyenoord 2 (Buffel 50, Ono 63) Att: 12,800

Utrecht 1 (Van den Bergh 81)
NAC 0 Att: 14,500

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	10	8	2	0	27	11	26
PSV	10	7	3	0	25	3	24
Feyenoord	10	6	2	2	26	12	20
Roda JC	10	5	4	1	22	12	19
NAC	10	3	6	1	14	8	15
Willem II	10	4	3	3	16	15	15
NEC	10	4	3	3	14	15	15
RKC	10	4	3	3	14	18	15
Utrecht	9	3	4	2	11	9	13
Vitesse	10	3	3	4	11	10	12
Excelsior	10	3	3	4	14	16	12
Zwolle	9	3	2	4	13	16	11
Twente	10	2	4	4	11	18	10
AZ	10	3	1	6	16	28	10
RBC	9	2	3	4	13	16	9
Heerenveen	10	2	3	5	13	18	9
De Graafschap	10	1	0	9	7	28	3
Groningen	9	0	1	8	7	21	1

LEADING GOALSCORERS
11 Mateja Kezman (PSV)
7 Kenneth Perez (AZ)
7 Pierre Van Hooijdonk (Feyenoord)

HUNGARY

Oct 18: Gyor 3 Kispest-Honved 1.
Oct 19: Zalaegerszeg 1 Siofok 0; Debrecen 6 Bekescsaba 1; MTK 5 Dunaferr 1; Ujpest 3 Matav 0; Videoton 0 Ferencvaros 3.
Oct 23: Zalaegerszeg 4 Bekescsaba 2.
Oct 25: Ferencvaros 4 Siofok 0.
Oct 27: Zalaegerszeg 2 Kispest-Honved 0; Videoton 0 MTK 0; Debrecen 3 Matav 3; Gyor 5 Bekescsaba 2; Ujpest 2 Dunaferr 1.
Nov 1: Videoton 2 Siofok 4.
Nov 2: Bekescsaba 3 Zalaegerszeg 1; Dunaferr 2 Debrecen 2; Matav 0 Gyor 0; MTK 1 Ujpest 0.

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MTK	13	10	1	2	30	13	31
Ferencvaros	12	8	2	2	24	9	26
Gyor	13	7	3	3	25	15	24
Debrecen	13	6	5	2	30	23	23
Ujpest	13	7	1	5	28	20	22
Siofok	13	6	3	4	20	18	21
Zalaegerszeg	13	5	3	5	24	23	18
Matav	13	3	4	6	16	21	13
Dunaferr	13	3	4	6	20	26	13
Videoton	13	2	5	6	12	22	11
Kispest-Honved	12	1	3	8	15	32	6
Bekescsaba	13	2	0	11	18	40	6

ITALY

Saturday, October 19

Empoli 1 (Di Natale 77)
Roma 3 (Emerson 31, Candela 34, Tommasi 90) Att: 13,060

Inter 1 (Vieri 90)
Juventus 1 (Del Piero pen 90) Att: 76,166

Sunday, October 20

Atalanta 1 (Sala 30)
Milan 4 (Rivaldo 15, Tomasson 41, Pirlo pen 66, 81) Att: 23,628

Bologna 3 (Locatelli 19, Cruz pen 75, 89)
Brescia 0 Att: 23,173

Como 1 (Cardone og 45)
Piacenza 1 (Caccia 30) Att: 6,965

Lazio 3 (Inzaghi 11, Chiesa 84, 90)
Perugia 0 Att: 35,278

Modena 2 (Fabbrini 67, Kamara 85)
Parma 1 (Mutu 41) Att: 14,741

Torino 1 (Magallanes 18)
Chievo 0 Att: 13,544

Udinese 1 (Pizarro pen 52)
Reggina 0 Att: 15,137

Saturday, October 26

Chievo 3 (Marazzina 22, Bierhoff 49, Cossato 82)
Milan 2 (Shevchenko 59, Tomasson 90) Att: 35,031

Juventus 1 (Salas 49)
Udinese 0 Att: 35,168

Sunday, October 27

Brescia 1 (Baggio pen 85)
Como 1 (Padalino 78) Att: 10,000

Inter 2 (Materazzi 66, Vieri 89)
Bologna 0 Att: 55,000

Lazio 2 (Fiore 51, Stankovic 75)
Roma 2 (Delvecchio 59, Batistuta 67) Att: 60,000

Parma 2 (Nakata 14, Mutu 69)
Atalanta 1 (Comandini 83) Att: 13,500

Perugia 2 (Ze Maria pen 7, Rezaei 29)
Modena 0 Att: 9,000

Piacenza 1 (Cardone 6)
Empoli 2 (Rocchi 31, Vannucchi 81) Att: 8,000

Reggina 2 (Bogdani 54, Paredes 81)
Torino 1 (Conticchio 46) Att: 10,000

Saturday, November 2

Torino 0
Brescia 2 (Tare 31, Appiah 86) Att: 14,688

Udinese 0
Bologna 0 Att: 15,850

Sunday, November 3

Atalanta 2 (Sala 74, Comandini 88)
Piacenza 0 Att: 13,508

Como 0
Inter 2 (Vieri 57, Recoba 64) Att: 12,452

Empoli 1 (Atzori 45)
Lazio 2 (Corradi 44, Stankovic 81) Att: 7,861

Milan 2 (Inzaghi 19, Rivaldo 64)
Reggina 0 Att: 63,892

Modena 0
Juventus 1 (Del Piero 71) Att: 16,227

Parma 0
Chievo 1 (Pellissier 90) Att: 13,358

Roma 2 (Panucci 65, Totti 69)
Perugia 2 (Ze Maria pen 38, Miccoli 43) Att: 55,235

Wednesday, November 6

Atalanta 1 (Dabo 90)
Modena 3 (Colucci 13, Kamara 39, Mauri 76)

Chievo 3 (Legrottaglie 25, Della Morte 28, Corini 52)
Perugia 0 Att: 11,556

Empoli 3 (Di Natale 16, Vannucchi 61, Tavano 90)
Inter 4 (Crespo 6, J Zanetti 11, Recoba 51, Adani 85) Att: 16,469

Milan 1 (Rivaldo 89)
Udinese 0 Att: 53,347

Parma 4 (Ferrari 15, Mutu 27, Bonazzoli 53, Gilardino 74)
Brescia 3 (Appiah 14, Baggio 25, pen 60) Att: 13,443

Piacenza 0
Juventus 1 (Nedved 70) Att: 12,763

Reggina 0
Lazio 3 (Fiore 16, Stankovic 33, Corradi 53) Att: 23,144

Roma 2 (Delvecchio 19, Totti 46)
Como 1 (Godeas 73)

Torino 2 (Conticchio 4, Castellini 88)
Bologna 1 (Vanoli pen 34) Att: 12,409

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter	8	7	1	0	18	7	22
Milan	8	6	1	1	22	5	19
Juventus	8	5	3	0	12	4	18
Lazio	8	5	2	1	15	7	17
Chievo	8	5	0	3	14	9	15
Roma	8	4	2	2	18	13	14
Parma	8	3	3	2	14	12	12
Bologna	8	3	3	2	9	7	12
Modena	8	4	0	4	9	12	12
Empoli	8	3	1	4	12	13	10
Brescia	8	2	2	4	13	16	8
Udinese	8	2	2	4	4	9	8
Perugia	8	2	2	4	9	16	8
Piacenza	8	2	1	5	7	12	7
Torino	8	2	0	6	5	15	6
Reggina	8	1	2	5	6	14	5
Como	8	0	4	4	5	12	4
Atalanta	8	1	1	6	7	16	4

LEADING GOALSCORERS
8 Francesco Totti (Roma)
7 Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus)
7 Filippo Inzaghi (Milan)
7 Christian Vieri (Inter)

NORWAY

Oct 19: Sogndal 2 Rosenborg 2.
Oct 20: Bodo/Glimt 2 Moss 0; Brann 1 Lillestrom 2; Stabaek 4 Molde 2; Viking 1 Bryne 1; Valerenga 4 Start 0.
Oct 21: Odd Grenland 1 Lyn 1.
Oct 27: Bryne 2 Valerenga 2; Lillestrom 3 Odd Grenland 0; Lyn 0 Viking 1; Molde 3 Sogndal 3; Moss 2 Stabaek 7; Rosenborg 4 Brann 0; Start 0 Bodo/Glimt 3.

NORWAY – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	26	17	5	4	57	30	56
Molde	26	15	5	6	48	26	50
Lyn	26	14	5	7	36	29	47
Viking	26	11	11	4	44	31	44
Stabaek	26	12	6	8	48	34	42
Odd Grenland	26	12	5	9	36	30	41
Lillestrom	26	10	6	10	37	30	36
Valerenga	26	7	12	7	38	31	33
Bryne	26	8	7	11	38	39	31
Bodo/Glimt	26	9	4	13	38	41	31
Sogndal	26	8	6	12	37	51	30
Brann	26	8	3	15	35	52	27
Moss	26	6	6	14	32	49	24
Start	26	2	5	19	21	72	11

POLAND

Oct 18: Katowice 2 Gornik 0.
Oct 19: Amica 5 KSZO 1; Polonia 2 Pogon 1; Wisla P 0 Legia 2; Widzew 0 Groclin 2; Lech 0 Zaglebie 0; Garbarnia 6 Ruch C 2.
Oct 20: Odra 3 Wisla K 2.
Oct 25: Legia 1 Widzew 0.
Oct 26: Ruch C 1 Amica 0; Groclin 4 Lech 1; Pogon 1 Wisla P 4; Wisla K 2 Katowice 0; KSZO 2 Odra 1.
Oct 27: Zaglebie 0 Garbarnia 0; Gornik 0 Polonia 0.
Nov 3: Polonia 0 Wisla K 4; Wisla P 0 Gornik 0; Amica 0 Odra 2; Garbarnia 2 Groclin 4; Katowice 2 KSZO 1; Widzew 1 Pogon 1; Ruch C 0 Zaglebie 3; Lech P 0 Legia 0.

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wisla K	12	7	3	2	31	14	24
Legia	12	6	6	0	20	11	24
Odra	12	7	3	2	19	14	24
Katowice	12	7	2	3	15	8	23
Groclin	12	6	4	2	22	16	22
Amica	12	4	5	3	15	12	17
Gornik	12	4	4	4	18	15	16
Wisla P	12	4	4	4	15	14	16
Polonia	12	4	3	5	15	21	15
Garbarnia	12	3	4	5	21	24	13
Ruch C	12	3	4	5	11	20	13
Zaglebie	12	3	3	6	14	13	12
Widzew	12	2	5	5	11	14	11
KSZO	12	3	2	7	13	24	11
Lech	12	1	7	4	10	14	10
Pogon	12	1	3	8	10	26	6

PORTUGAL

Saturday, October 19

Sporting Braga 1 (Bordi 63)
Boavista 0

Sunday, October 20

Academica 1 (Dario 19)
Beira Mar 1 (Ricardo Sousa 17)

Moreirense 2 (Armando 10, Flavio Meireles 54)
Nacional 0

FC Porto 2 (Eder og 20, Deco 72)
Benfica 1 (Tiago 4)

Setubal 0
Uniao Leiria 0

Sporting Lisbon 2 (Joao Pinto 30, Ricardo Quaresma 89)
Belenenses 0

Varzim 3 (Gilmar 2, Jorge Luiz 29, Paulo Vida 33)
Gil Vicente 0

Monday, October 21

Pacos Ferreira 1 (Carlos Carneiro 46)
Guimaraes 2 (Rafael 14, Guga 89)

Friday, October 25

Belenenses 1 (Carlos Fernandes 48)
Moreirense 0

Saturday, October 26

Benfica 1 (Carlitos 90)
Academica 1 (Xano 86)

Boavista 1 (Martelinho 70)
Sporting Lisbon 2 (Jardel pen 44, Cristiano Ronaldo 88)

Uniao Leiria 2 (Joao Paulo 11, Edson 47)
FC Porto 2 (Clayton 7, Deco 13)

Sunday, October 27

Beira Mar 2 (Fary 34, Ricardo Sousa 41)
Santa Clara 1 (Joao Pedro 45)

Guimaraes 2 (Pedro Mendes 14, Hugo Cunha 90)
Varzim 3 (Jorge Ribeiro 49, Rui Baiao 55, Pepa 84)

Maritimo 2 (Eric Gaucho 9, Joel Santos 15)
Pacos Ferreira 0

Nacional 1 (Adriano 56)
Setubal 1 (Meyong 16)

Monday, October 28

Gil Vicente 3 (Ali 11, Luis Coentrao 30, Casquilha 44)
Sporting Braga 0

Saturday, November 2

Sporting Braga 2 (Barroso 48, Arrieta 61)
Guimaraes 4 (Pedro Mendes 11, Romeu 32, Nuno Assis 45, Rafael 56)

Sporting Lisbon 0
Gil Vicente 3 (Manoel 3, Gaspar 21, Paulo Alves 90)

Sunday, November 3

Academica 3 (Renato og 8, Dario 37, Di Jorio 64)
Uniao Leiria 2 (Kibuey 2, Silas 35)

Moreirense 2 (Armando 7, Mauro Cesar 78)
Setubal 2 (Rui Miguel 10, 58)

Pacos Ferreira 1 (Mauro 57)
Beira Mar 0

Santa Clara 1 (Joao Pedro 14)
Benfica 2 (Simao 42, 71)

Varzim 4 (Gilmar 26, Jose Antonio 67, 72, Quim Berto 88)
Maritimo 1 (Dinda 63)

Monday, November 4

Belenenses 0
Boavista 0

FC Porto 5 (Maniche 27, Helder Postiga 33, 62, Clayton 37, Deco 49)
Nacional 2 (Adriano 22, Rossato 70)

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	9	6	3	0	19	9	21
Guimaraes	9	6	1	2	22	14	19
Benfica	9	5	2	2	16	9	17
Belenenses	9	5	2	2	12	9	17
Varzim	9	5	1	3	15	10	16
Sporting Lisbon	9	5	1	3	13	13	16
Pacos Ferreira	9	4	1	4	13	9	13
Sporting Braga	9	4	1	4	12	15	13
Setubal	9	2	6	1	13	8	12
Gil Vicente	9	3	2	4	12	13	11
Boavista	9	3	2	4	7	9	11
Maritimo	8	3	1	4	7	14	10
Beira Mar	9	2	3	4	7	11	9
Uniao Leiria	9	2	2	5	9	14	8
Nacional	9	2	2	5	8	13	8
Moreirense	9	2	1	6	10	15	7
Santa Clara	8	2	1	5	10	15	7
Academica	9	1	4	4	9	14	7

LEADING GOALSCORERS
7 Romeu (Guimaraes)
7 Simao Sabrosa (Benfica)

ROMANIA

Oct 18: Gloria 2 Astra 0.
Oct 19: Arges 2 Steaua 3; UTA 1 U Craiova 1; Farul 3 Poli AEK 1; Sportul 1 Brasov 2; Ceahlaul 4 Otelul 0.
Oct 20: Rapid 2 Bacau 0; National 0 Dinamo 2.
Oct 26: Ceahlaul 0 Arges 1; Bacau 0 Gloria 0; Astra 3 National 2; Dinamo 5 UTA 0; Poli AEK 3 Sportul 2; Brasov 3 Otelul 2.
Oct 27: Steaua 2 Rapid 1; U Craiova 0 Farul 1.
Nov 2: Rapid 1 Arges 0; UTA 2 Astra 1; Sportul 3 U Craiova 1; Otelul 2 Poli AEK 2; Brasov 1 Ceahlaul 0.
Nov 3: Gloria 0 Steaua 0; National 0 Bacau 0; Farul 0 Dinamo 1.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rapid	10	8	0	2	22	9	24
Gloria	10	5	3	2	15	4	18
Dinamo	10	5	2	3	21	11	17
National	10	5	2	3	13	9	17
Brasov	10	5	2	3	12	10	17
Steaua	10	4	4	2	11	8	16
Poli AEK	10	5	1	4	15	16	16
Otelul	10	4	3	3	12	15	15
Farul	10	4	2	4	9	9	14
Ceahlaul	10	2	5	3	14	11	11
Sportul	10	3	2	5	13	17	11
Arges	10	3	2	5	9	14	11
U Craiova	10	3	2	5	14	20	11
UTA	10	3	1	6	12	24	10
Bacau	10	1	4	5	7	14	7
Astra	10	2	1	7	11	19	7

RUSSIA

Oct 19: Lokomotiv M 3 Torpedo-ZIL 0.
Oct 26: Shinnik 1 Zenit 1; Rostselmash 1 Dinamo 1; Kryliya Sovetov 0 Sokol 1; Torpedo M 2 Alaniya 0; Anzhi 1 Saturn 1; Rotor 0 Spartak 3.
Oct 27: CSKA 2 Uralan 1.
Nov 2: Uralan 0 Torpedo M 1; Alaniya 0 CSKA 1; Saturn 2 Rotor 1; Zenit 0 Rostselmash 2; Sokol 0 Lokomotiv M 3; Dinamo 0 Shinnik 1.
Nov 3: Torpedo-ZIL 0 Kryliya Sovetov 2.
Nov 6: Alaniya 1 Lokomotiv M 1.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA	28	19	3	6	55	25	60
Lokomotiv M	28	17	9	2	42	12	60
Spartak	28	16	7	5	48	33	55
Torpedo M	28	13	7	8	45	31	46
Saturn	28	13	7	8	40	33	46
Kryliya Sovetov	28	14	3	11	37	31	45
Dinamo	28	12	5	11	37	31	41
Shinnik	28	11	8	9	37	36	41
Zenit	28	8	9	11	34	38	33
Rotor	28	9	5	14	24	34	32
Rostselmash	28	7	9	12	28	46	30
Uralan	28	6	11	11	32	39	29
Alaniya	28	7	6	15	30	41	27
Torpedo-ZIL	28	5	10	13	18	37	25
Sokol	28	5	7	16	22	41	22
Anzhi	28	4	10	14	21	42	22

SCOTLAND

Saturday, October 19

Aberdeen 0
Dundee 0 Att: 14,003

Dundee Utd 2 (Lilley 45, McIntyre 59)
Livingston 3 (Bollan 69, Wilson 74, Dadi 78) Att: 5,572

Kilmarnock 2 (Shields 49, Boyd 76)
Dunfermline 2 (Brewster 43, Bullen 58) Att: 5,515

Partick 0
Hibernian 3 (O'Connor 44, 88, Paatelainen 81) Att: 5,946

Rangers 3 (Amoruso 2, Lovenkrands 72, De Boer 90)
Motherwell 0 Att: 49,376

Sunday, October 20

Hearts 1 (Wales 89)
Celtic 4 (Sutton 3, Petrov 9, Larsson 37, 42) Att: 13,911

Saturday, October 26

Dundee Utd 1 (Thompson 13)
Partick 1 (Waddell 86) Att: 6,369

Hearts 1 (McKenna 60)
Dundee 2 (Lovell 26, 67) Att: 10,169

Motherwell 1 (Kemas 79)
Livingston 5 (Makel 9, Toure-Maman 48, 58, Bingham 81, Xausa 90) Att: 4,342

Sunday, October 27

Aberdeen 0
Hibernian 1 (Brebner 70) Att: 12,321

Dunfermline 1 (Brewster 56)
Celtic 4 (Larsson 25, Thompson 32, Petrov 74, Sutton 84) Att: 9,139

Rangers 6 (Mols 5, 15, De Boer 26, Ferguson 34, pen 71, Moore 67)
Kilmarnock 1 (Fulton 44) Att: 48,368

Saturday, November 2

Dundee 0
Rangers 3 (Malcolm 30, Lovenkrands 50, Moore 79) Att: 10,124

Kilmarnock 1 (Fulton 24)
Dundee Utd 2 (Thompson 7, McIntyre 90) Att: 5,417

Livingston 1 (Toure-Maman 79)
Dunfermline 1 (Brewster 47) Att: 6,324

Partick 2 (Hardie 30, Burns 52)
Motherwell 0 Att: 5,405

Sunday, November 3

Celtic 7 (Hartson 26, 35, 51, 81, Larsson 43, Balde 71, Maloney 86)
Aberdeen 0 Att: 58,526

Hibernian 1 (Paatelainen 36)
Hearts 2 (McKenna 86, Stamp 90) Att: 15,560

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	13	11	2	0	41	7	35
Celtic	13	11	1	1	40	8	34
Hearts	13	5	5	3	23	18	20
Dunfermline	13	6	2	5	23	26	20
Hibernian	13	6	0	7	18	21	18
Dundee	13	4	5	4	13	18	17
Aberdeen	13	4	3	6	13	24	15
Kilmarnock	13	3	4	6	13	27	13
Livingston	13	3	3	7	18	21	12
Partick	13	2	6	5	11	19	12
Dundee Utd	13	2	4	7	11	23	10
Motherwell	13	2	3	8	14	26	9

LEADING GOALSCORERS
15 Henrik Larsson (Celtic)
8 Stevie Crawford (Dunfermline)
8 Ronald De Boer (Rangers)
8 Mark De Vries (Hearts)

SPAIN

Saturday, October 19

Atletico Madrid 1 (Javi Moreno 74)
Valencia 1 (Baraja 40) Att: 58,000

Racing Santander 2 (Regueiro 41, Munitis 51)
Real Madrid 0 Att: 22,000

Villarreal 3 (Cesar og 48, Victor pen 62, Belletti 89)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Victor 7) Att: 15,000

Sunday, October 20

Alaves 2 (Astudillo 5, Ruben Navarro 86)
Real Sociedad 2 (Nihat 34, Karpin 67) Att: 17,576

Athletic Bilbao 1 (Ezquerro 6)
Malaga 1 (Roteta 85) Att: 30,000

Betis 0
Mallorca 1 (Novo 32) Att: 15,000

Celta Vigo 0
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Bolo 6) Att: 18,000

Espanyol 2 (Roger 61, 72)
Recreativo 0 Att: 24,200

Osasuna 2 (Aloisi pen 34, 45)
Sevilla 1 (Pablo Alfaro 40) Att: 14,994

Valladolid 2 (Aganzo 53, Pachon 86)
Barcelona 1 (Saviola 90) Att: 15,700

Saturday, October 26

Barcelona 6 (Kluivert 16, 27, 80, Mendieta pen 35, Luis Enrique 41, Xavi 65)
Alaves 1 (Ibon Begona 55) Att: 65,791

Celta Vigo 0
Atletico Madrid 0 Att: 21,000

Rayo Vallecano 1 (Korino 90)
Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Makaay 24, 49) Att: 13,000

Real Madrid 1 (Zidane 23)
Villarreal 1 (Jorge Lopez pen 45) Att: 70,059

Recreativo 1 (Xisco 75)
Betis 1 (Gaston Casas 44) Att: 19,500

Valencia 5 (Aimar 6, 28, 42, Carew 7, Fabio Aurelio pen 47)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Tiko 84) Att: 45,000

Sunday, October 27

Malaga 3 (Dely Valdes pen 4, Dario Silva 6, 15)
Espanyol 4 (Domoraud 11, Milosevic 55, Tamudo pen 65, Rodriguez 86) Att: 20,000

Mallorca 2 (Eto'o 58, Novo 69)
Osasuna 0 Att: 17,000

Real Sociedad 2 (Kovacevic 73, De Pedro pen 90)
Racing Santander 1 (Javi Guerrero 22) Att: 23,000

Sevilla 2 (Antonio 12, 23)
Valladolid 1 (Colsa pen 51) Att: 35,000

Saturday, November 2

Atletico Madrid 2 (Garcia Calvo 5, Fernando Torres pen 55)
Rayo Vallecano 0 Att: 45,000

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Real Madrid 0 Att: 34,600

Valladolid 1 (Marcos 25)
Mallorca 3 (Pandiani 26, 56, 69) Att: 11,000

Sunday, November 3

Alaves 1 (Ruben Navarro 90)
Sevilla 0 Att: 13,800

Athletic Bilbao 2 (Etxeberria 81, Urzaiz 90)
Celta Vigo 1 (Edu 33) Att: 36,000

Betis 3 (Arzu 49, Fernando 58, pen 76)
Malaga 0 Att: 40,000

Espanyol 0
Valencia 1 (Fabio Aurelio 74) Att: 35,300

Osasuna 0
Recreativo 1 (Cubillo pen 85) Att: 14,094

Racing Santander 1 (Javi Guerrero 2)
Barcelona 1 (Fernando Navarro 83) Att: 19,675

Villarreal 0
Real Sociedad 1 (Nihat 36) Att: 18,000

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Sociedad	8	6	2	0	20	12	20
Valencia	8	5	2	1	17	5	17
Mallorca	8	5	0	3	11	10	15
Celta Vigo	8	4	2	2	11	6	14
Betis	8	3	4	1	16	9	13
Real Madrid	8	3	4	1	14	8	13
Dep La Coruna	8	4	1	3	11	12	13
Barcelona	8	3	3	2	16	11	12
Malaga	8	3	3	2	16	16	12
At Madrid	8	2	5	1	12	8	11
Racing Santander	8	3	2	3	9	8	11
Valladolid	8	3	1	4	8	11	10
Rayo Vallecano	8	2	2	4	10	14	8
Alaves	8	2	2	4	10	18	8
Athletic Bilbao	8	2	2	4	9	17	8
Villarreal	8	1	4	3	9	10	7
Sevilla	8	1	4	3	6	8	7
Espanyol	8	2	1	5	7	13	7
Osasuna	8	1	2	5	10	17	5
Recreativo	8	1	2	5	6	15	5

LEADING GOALSCORERS
7 Roy Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna)
6 Julio Alvarez (Rayo Vallecano)
6 Darko Kovacevic (Real Sociedad)
6 Nihat Kahveci (Real Sociedad)

SWEDEN

Oct 20: AIK 2 Sundsvall 1; IFK Gothenburg 0 Landskrona 0; Kalmar 0 Djurgardens 1.
Oct 21: Halmstads 2 Orebro 0; Helsingborgs 2 Orgryte 0; Hammarby 3 Norrkoping 1.
Oct 22: Malmo 0 Elfsborg 0.
Oct 24: Djurgardens 2 Sundsvall 1.
Oct 27: Helsingborgs 0 Elfsborg 0; Kalmar 0 Halmstads 5.
Oct 28: Hammarby 0 IFK Gothenburg 1; Norrkoping 2 Orebro 2; Malmo 5 AIK 0; Orgryte 1 Landskrona 0.
Nov 2: AIK 1 Helsingborgs 1; Sundsvall 1 Norrkoping 1; Halmstads 1 Malmo 0; Elfsborg 0 Djurgardens 2; IFK Gothenburg 0 Kalmar 2; Landskrona 2 Hammarby 3; Orebro 3 Orgryte 2.

SWEDEN – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Djurgardens	26	16	4	6	51	33	52
Malmo	26	14	4	8	52	32	46
Orgryte	26	12	8	6	49	38	44
Helsingborgs	26	10	8	8	38	38	38
AIK	26	9	10	7	35	38	37
Halmstads	26	8	12	6	35	28	36
Orebro	26	9	8	9	32	39	35
Sundsvall	26	8	9	9	29	35	33
Hammarby	26	8	8	10	43	42	32
Elfsborg	26	8	8	10	25	31	32
Landskrona	26	8	6	12	41	39	30
IFK Gothenburg	26	8	4	14	25	39	28
Norrkoping	26	6	9	11	37	40	27
Kalmar	26	6	6	14	20	40	24

SWITZERLAND

Oct 19: Aarau 1 Young Boys 1; Basle 6 St Gallen 0; Lucerne 4 Servette 3.
Oct 20: Grasshopper 4 Neuchatel Xamax 0; Thun 0 Zurich 0; Wil 1900 2 Delemont 0.
Oct 25: Servette 0 Basle 1.
Oct 26: Zurich 1 Wil 1900 3.
Oct 27: Delemont 2 Neuchatel Xamax 1; Lucerne 1 Thun 2; St Gallen 1 Aarau 0; Young Boys 0 Grasshopper 2.
Nov 1: Basle 5 Zurich 3.
Nov 2: Aarau 3 Delemont 0; Neuchatel Xamax 3 Young Boys 1.
Nov 3: Thun 1 Servette 0; Wil 1900 11 St Gallen 3; Grasshopper 3 Lucerne 2.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grasshopper	18	13	2	3	50	22	41
Basle	18	12	4	2	48	21	40
Wil 1900	18	7	6	5	39	36	27
Thun	18	8	3	7	28	26	27
Young Boys	18	7	5	6	30	29	26
Zurich	18	8	2	8	26	29	26
Servette	18	7	2	9	36	31	23
Neuchatel Xamax	18	6	5	7	22	28	23
Lucerne*	18	6	4	8	25	32	20
Delemont	18	6	1	11	20	32	19
St Gallen	18	4	5	9	25	44	17
Aarau	18	3	3	12	15	34	12

**2pts deducted for licence application irregularities (reduced from 4pts on appeal)*

TURKEY

Oct 18: Fenerbahce 1 Adanaspor 1.
Oct 19: Galatasaray 1 Diyarbakirspor 0; Gaziantepspor 4 Samsunspor 2; Goztepe 1 Istanbulspor 1; Malatyaspor 5 Genclerbirligi 4.
Oct 20: Ankaragucu 4 Bursaspor 0; Denizlispor 1 Besiktas 2; Elazigspor 2 Altay 0; Trabzonspor 2 Kocaelispor 0.
Oct 25: Besiktas 3 Malatyaspor 0.
Oct 26: Altay 1 Galatasaray 2; Istanbulspor 1 Trabzonspor 2; Kocaelispor 3 Ankaragucu 0; Samsunspor 0 Denizlispor 0.
Oct 27: Adanaspor 0 Elazigspor 0; Bursaspor 1 Gaziantepspor 1; Diyarbakirspor 1 Goztepe 0; Genclerbirligi 1 Fenerbahce 1.
Nov 1: Trabzonspor 3 Diyarbakirspor 0.
Nov 2: Altay 0 Adanaspor 4; Ankaragucu 1 Istanbulspor 0; Elazigspor 0 Genclerbirligi 3; Galatasaray 3 Goztepe 1; Gaziantepspor 2 Kocaelispor 1; Malatyaspor 2 Samsunspor 1.
Nov 6: Denizlispor 2 Bursaspor 2; Fenerbahce 6 Galatasaray 0.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	11	8	2	1	21	12	26
Gaziantepspor	11	6	5	0	21	11	23
Besiktas	10	6	4	0	16	7	22
Fenerbahce	10	5	4	1	22	12	19
Trabzonspor	11	5	4	2	11	6	19
Genclerbirligi	11	5	3	3	23	14	18
Ankaragucu	11	5	2	4	14	11	17
Malatyaspor	11	4	4	3	21	16	16
Samsunspor	11	4	3	4	11	14	15
Adanaspor	11	3	5	3	15	12	14
Denizlispor	11	3	4	4	14	15	13
Istanbulspor	11	3	3	5	11	16	12
Bursaspor	11	2	5	4	16	19	11
Elazigspor	11	3	2	6	12	19	11
Goztepe	11	2	4	5	14	21	10
Altay	11	2	2	7	13	26	8
Diyarbakirspor	11	1	3	7	7	20	6
Kocaelispor	11	1	1	9	11	22	4

UKRAINE

Oct 26: Tavriya 2 Metalist 0; Metalurh Z 0 Dnipro 2; Shakhtar 2 Chornomorets 0; Dynamo 2 Metalurh M 0; Volyn-1 1 Metalurh D 1; Kryvbas 1 Poligraftekhnika 1; Vorskla 0 Obolon 0.
Oct 27: Arsenal 1 Karpaty 1.
Nov 2: Chornomorets 1 Dynamo 4; Karpaty 0 Obolon 1.
Nov 3: Poligraftekhnika 2 Vorskla 0; Metalurh D 2 Kryvbas 1; Arsenal 5 Tavriya 0; Metalurh M 3 Volyn-1 2; Dnipro 0 Shakhtar 3; Metalist 2 Metalurh Z 1.
Nov 5: Karpaty 0 Dynamo 0.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shakhtar	14	11	2	1	29	12	35
Dnipro	14	11	2	1	24	7	35
Dynamo	14	9	3	2	32	9	30
Arsenal	14	9	3	2	33	13	30
Metalurh D	14	8	3	3	21	13	27
Volyn-1	14	7	1	6	19	22	22
Metalurh M	14	4	4	6	18	20	16
Metalist	14	4	4	6	10	18	16
Karpaty	14	3	6	5	12	15	15
Kryvbas	14	3	6	5	12	15	15
Poligraftekhnika	14	3	6	5	14	20	15
Tavriya	14	4	2	8	16	25	14
Obolon	14	3	4	7	12	17	13
Metalurh Z	14	2	4	8	9	19	10
Vorskla	14	3	1	10	8	27	10
Chornomorets	14	2	1	11	7	24	7

YUGOSLAVIA

Oct 18: Vojvodina 5 Sartid 1.
Oct 19: Zemun 1 Rad 3; Partizan 2 Red Star 2; Rudar P 1 Mogren 0; OFK 3 Zeleznik 1; Obilic 1 Cukaricki 0; Zeta 1 Sutjeska 0; Javor 2 Radnicki N 0; Hajduk K 2 Radnicki O 0.
Oct 25: Zemun 1 Partizan 1.
Oct 26: Zeleznik 2 Obilic 1; Sartid 0 OFK 3; Mogren 2 Vojvodina 3; Red Star 5 Rudar P 1; Radnicki N 1 Hajduk K 3; Sutjeska 4 Javor 1; Cukaricki 2 Zeta 0; Rad 2 Radnicki O 2.
Nov 1: Obilic 3 Sartid 3.
Nov 2: Rudar P 0 Zemun 0; OFK 1 Mogren 0; Zeta 1 Zeleznik 1; Javor 1 Cukaricki 0; Hajduk K 0 Sutjeska 0; Radnicki O 2 Radnicki N 0.
Nov 3: Partizan 2 Rad 1; Vojvodina 0 Red Star 2.
Nov 5: Zeleznik 3 Javor 1; Cukaricki 1 Hajduk K 0.
Nov 6: Sartid 0 Zeta 0; Mogren 0 Obilic 2; Zemun 2 Vojvodina 1; Partizan 4 Rudar P 0; Sutjeska 1 Radnicki O 1; Rad 1 Radnicki N 1; Red Star 2 OFK 1.

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan	12	9	2	1	32	14	29
Zeleznik	12	8	2	2	24	14	26
OFK	12	8	1	3	24	12	25
Red Star	11	6	3	2	24	11	21
Obilic	12	6	3	3	17	12	21
Vojvodina	12	6	1	5	20	13	19
Hajduk K	12	5	3	4	15	11	18
Sutjeska	12	5	3	4	14	11	18
Sartid	12	4	5	3	21	21	17
Zemun	12	5	2	5	15	19	17
Zeta	12	4	3	5	11	12	15
Javor	12	4	3	5	8	17	15
Radnicki O	12	2	6	4	15	18	12
Rad	12	2	5	5	12	16	11
Cukaricki	11	3	2	6	15	22	11
Rudar P	12	2	3	7	7	22	9
Radnicki N	12	1	3	8	8	23	6
Mogren	12	0	4	8	10	24	4

SOUTH AMERICA

LIBERTADORES CUP

Preliminary rnd

Oct 22: Estudiantes (Ven) 1 Pumas UNAM (Mex) 0.
Oct 24: Nacional Tachira (Ven) 1 Pumas UNAM 2.
Oct 29: Estudiantes 1 Cruz Azul (Mex) 1.
Oct 31: Nacional Tachira 2 Cruz Azul 3.
Nov 6: Pumas UNAM 1 Cruz Azul 1; Estudiantes 1 Nacional Tachira 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Estudiantes	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
Cruz Azul	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Pumas UNAM	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Nacional Tachira	3	0	0	3	3	6	0

Top two qualify for 1st round proper

ARGENTINA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, October 12

Talleres Cordoba 1 (La Paglia 16)
Independiente 4 (Montenegro 12, Silvera 26, 75, Gomez 70)

Velez Sarsfield 3 (Valdemarin 37, 41, Pellegrino 56)
San Lorenzo 3 (Chatruc 50, Astudillo 54, 58)

Sunday, October 13

Arsenal 4 (S Gonzalez 10, Piersimone 39, 73, Andrizzi 63)
Rosario Central 1 (Figueroa 59)

Chacarita Juniors 1 (Torales 23)
Banfield 0

Colon Santa Fe 1 (Delgado 25)
Boca Juniors 0

Estudiantes 6 (Farias 3, Pompei 13, 37, Donnet 29, Quattrocchi 41, Pavone 77)
Olimpo 0

Huracan 2 (Fleita 45, Santana og 89)
Nueva Chicago 1 (Couceiro 85)

Newell's Old Boys 2 (Domizi 38, Ponzio 90)
Lanus 2 (Bustos Montoya 32, 67)

Racing Club 1 (Milito 1)
Gimnasia LP 1 (Choy 4)

River Plate 4 (Dominguez 30, Pereyra 73, Cavenaghi 80, 85)
Union Santa Fe 2 (Torres 21, Zapata 84)

Wednesday, October 16

Racing Club 3 (Milito 7, 66, Pavlovich 31)
Nueva Chicago 0

Friday, October 18

San Lorenzo 2 (Acosta 34, Astudillo 47)
Colon Santa Fe 0

Saturday, October 19

Lanus 2 (Bustos Montoya 11, Mannara 25)
Velez Sarsfield 0

Olimpo 0
Racing Club 2 (Milito 57, 86)

Rosario Central 2 (Mandra 56, 60)
Talleres Cordoba 2 (Bustos 36, 82)

Union Santa Fe 2 (Weisheim 50, Raggio 81)
Huracan 2 (Lobos 57, Alonso 65)

Sunday, October 20

***Banfield 5** (Colautti 7, 54, Demichelis og 29, Moreno y Fabianesi 42, Jimenez 52)
River Plate 0
**Match abandoned after 67mins because of crowd trouble caused by River supporters; result stood*

Boca Juniors 2 (Barros Schelotto 17, Ibarra 68)
Chacarita Juniors 1 (Delgado 77)

Gimnasia LP 2 (Salazar 41, Muller 61)
Newell's Old Boys 1 (Sacripanti 52)

Independiente 1 (Castagno Suarez 73)
Estudiantes 0

Nueva Chicago 3 (Ceballos 40, Carreno 42, Serrano 77)
Arsenal 1 (Piersimone 90)

Friday, October 25

Velez Sarsfield 3 (Cubero 5, Nanni 24, 80)
Gimnasia LP 1 (Choy 66)

Saturday, October 26

Chacarita Juniors 2 (Gamboa 12, Pena pen 69)
San Lorenzo 1 (Gamboa og 15)

Colon Santa Fe 2 (Carignano 23, Delgado 61)
Lanus 2 (Risso 87, 88)

Estudiantes 1 (Farias pen 68)
Racing Club 0

Huracan 2 (Lobos 82, Alonso 84)
Banfield 3 (Colautti 17, 42, Cervera 28)

Talleres Cordoba 2 (Gonzalez 10, Devallis 74)
Nueva Chicago 1 (Couceiro 24)

Sunday, October 27

Arsenal 2 (Ruiz 48, Alvarez 87)
Union Santa Fe 1 (Raggio pen 40)

Independiente 3 (Silvera 32, Montenegro 50, 76)
Rosario Central 1 (Figueroa 46)

Newell's Old Boys 1 (Marino 72)
Olimpo 0

River Plate 1 (Fuertes 52)
Boca Juniors 2 (Delgado 42, 77)

Friday, November 1

Racing Club 0
Newell's Old Boys 1 (Rosales 73)

Saturday, November 2

Nueva Chicago 2 (Couceiro 59, Serrano pen 84)
Independiente 2 (Dominguez 11, Silvera pen 81)

Olimpo 1 (Carrario 41)
Velez Sarsfield 0

Union Santa Fe 1 (Silva Pro 30)
Talleres Cordoba 3 (Bustos 3, 12, Gonzalez 50)

Sunday, November 3

Banfield 1 (Colautti 50)
Arsenal 1 (S Gonzalez 46)

Boca Juniors 3 (Delgado 32, Schiavi 78, Barros Schelotto 80)
Huracan 1 (Kobistyj 47)

Gimnasia LP 1 (Enria 80)
Colon Santa Fe 1 (Carignano 35)

Lanus 0
Chacarita Juniors 1 (Romero 88)

Rosario Central 1 (Quinteros 16)
Estudiantes 2 (Aquino 56, Colotto 71)

San Lorenzo 0
River Plate 1 (Fuertes 42)

ARGENTINA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Independiente	15	11	3	1	42	16	36
Boca Juniors	15	9	3	3	26	13	30
River Plate	15	9	3	3	28	17	30
Chacarita Jnrs	15	8	2	5	17	16	26
San Lorenzo	15	6	5	4	22	19	23
Velez Sarsfield	15	6	4	5	20	14	22
Arsenal	15	6	4	5	23	19	22
Newell's OB	15	6	4	5	17	16	22
Colon Santa Fe	15	5	7	3	18	21	22
Talleres Cordoba	15	5	5	5	19	22	20
Rosario Central	15	5	4	6	29	26	19
Racing Club	15	5	4	6	19	22	19
Banfield	15	4	6	5	16	14	18
Lanus	15	4	6	5	13	19	18
Union Santa Fe	15	4	4	7	17	23	16
Gimnasia LP	15	3	6	6	14	20	15
Estudiantes	15	4	2	9	17	25	14
Olimpo	15	3	5	7	15	25	14
Nueva Chicago	15	2	5	8	14	22	11
Huracan	15	2	4	9	17	34	10

LEADING GOALSCORER
15 Andres Silvera (Independiente)

BOLIVIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 12: Guabira 1 Oriente 7; The Strongest 5 San Jose 2.
Oct 13: Blooming 1 Jorge Wilstermann 0; Iberoamericana 2 Mariscal Braun 0; Real Potosi 3 Independiente 2; Union Central 1 Bolivar 0.
Oct 16: Bolivar 5 Guabira 0; Iberoamericana 2 Union Central 1; Independiente 1 Blooming 1; Oriente 6 Real Potosi 1; San Jose 1 Mariscal Braun 0; Jorge Wilstermann 1 The Strongest 1.
Oct 20: Blooming 1 Oriente 2; Guabira 2 Iberoamericana 0; Mariscal Braun 2 Union Central 1; Real Potosi 0 Bolivar 4; San Jose 2 Jorge Wilstermann 0; The Strongest 2 Independiente 2.
Oct 23: Union Central 2 Mariscal Braun 1.
Oct 27: Bolivar 10 Blooming 1; Iberoamericana 2 Real Potosi 1; Independiente 3 San Jose 1; Oriente 2 The Strongest 0; Union Central 1 Guabira 1; Jorge Wilstermann 2 Mariscal Braun 1.
Nov 3: Blooming 0 Iberoamericana 2; Real Potosi 4 Union Central 2; San Jose 1 Oriente 1; Jorge Wilstermann 2 Independiente 1.

BOLIVIA – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oriente	16	10	4	2	47	21	34
Bolivar	14	10	3	1	46	9	33
J Wilstermann	16	8	4	4	30	20	28
The Strongest	16	7	5	4	35	21	26
Blooming	17	8	2	7	35	41	26
Real Potosi	17	7	4	6	33	34	25
San Jose	17	7	3	7	26	37	24
Guabira	16	5	4	7	18	34	19
Independiente	16	3	6	7	20	24	15
Iberoamericana	16	5	0	11	15	34	15
Union Central	17	3	5	9	20	33	14
Mariscal Braun	16	3	2	11	16	33	11

BRAZIL

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 12: Palmeiras 2 Juventude 2; Figueirense 0 Sao Paulo 3; Sao Caetano 2 Vasco da Gama 0; Parana 1 Vitoria 0.
Oct 13: Botafogo (Rio) 1 Paysandu 0; Portuguesa 1 Atletico Paranaense 1; Ponte Preta 3 Goias 2; Cruzeiro 1 Santos 4; Internacional 2 Fluminense 2; Coritiba 0 Guarani 1; Gama 1 Corinthians 3; Bahia 5 Atletico Mineiro 3.
Oct 16: Paysandu 3 Parana 1; Vasco da Gama 2 Flamengo 1; Coritiba 0 Gremio 0; Internacional 1 Goias 2; Figueirense 3 Atletico Paranaense 2; Gama 1 Juventude 0; Sao Paulo 3 Santos 2; Bahia 2 Ponte Preta 1.
Oct 17: Palmeiras 4 Guarani 2; Botafogo (Rio) 1 Vitoria 4; Atletico Mineiro 2 Sao Caetano 1.
Oct 19: Santos 1 Portuguesa 2; Vasco da Gama 1 Parana 0; Gremio 3 Gama 1.
Oct 20: Corinthians 1 Ponte Preta 0; Fluminense 1 Bahia 0; Cruzeiro 1 Atletico Mineiro 2; Guarani 1 Sao Paulo 2; Vitoria 1 Flamengo 2; Sao Caetano 2 Paysandu 1; Goias 1 Figueirense 0; Atletico Paranaense 2 Internacional 3; Juventude 5 Coritiba 3.
Oct 23: Corinthians 2 Palmeiras 2; Portuguesa 2 Guarani 0; Sao Caetano 1 Cruzeiro 1; Figueirense 2 Flamengo 1; Fluminense 2 Goias 2; Parana 2 Gama 1; Paysandu 2 Santos 1; Ponte Preta 1 Vitoria 1; Bahia 4 Vasco da Gama 2.
Oct 26: Botafogo (Rio) 2 Fluminense 3; Portuguesa 1 Sao Paulo 3; Internacional 0 Gremio 1; Santos 3 Flamengo 0; Atletico Paranaense 1 Coritiba 0; Gama 0 Goias 1; Juventude 3 Figueirense 2.
Oct 28: Guarani 2 Ponte Preta 4.
Oct 30: Flamengo 0 Corinthians 1; Palmeiras 2 Botafogo (Rio) 1; Atletico Mineiro 3 Internacional 2; Gremio 2 Atletico Paranaense 1; Coritiba 3 Cruzeiro 1; Paysandu 1 Goias 2; Bahia 1 Santos 1; Figueirense 1 Sao Caetano 2.
Oct 31: Fluminense 2 Vasco da Gama 1; Sao Paulo 5 Ponte Preta 2; Parana 3 Juventude 1.
Nov 2: Flamengo 2 Botafogo (Rio) 0; Guarani 0 Santos 2; Internacional 0 Coritiba 1.
Nov 3: Vasco da Gama 1 Palmeiras 0; Corinthians 0 Fluminense 2; Cruzeiro 3 Gremio 2; Ponte Preta 0 Portuguesa 0; Atletico Paranaense 2 Atletico Mineiro 2; Paysandu 2 Figueirense 1; Goias 4 Parana 0; Sao Caetano 2 Juventude 1; Vitoria 1 Bahia 0.
Nov 6: Fluminense 0 Palmeiras 3; Sao Paulo 5 Vasco da Gama 3; Atletico Paranaense 2 Paysandu 1; Vitoria 3 Guarani 1; Figueirense 0 Gremio 2; Gama 2 Cruzeiro 3; Sao Caetano 1 Internacional 1.
Nov 7: Atletico Mineiro 3 Coritiba 1; Parana 2 Botafogo (Rio) 0; Corinthians 5 Portuguesa 2.

BRAZIL – NATIONAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sao Paulo	23	14	4	5	53	33	46
Sao Caetano	23	13	4	6	37	24	43
Corinthians	22	12	5	5	35	32	41
Santos	23	11	6	6	43	30	39
At Mineiro	22	11	4	7	42	35	37
Juventude	22	11	4	7	31	24	37
Gremio	22	10	6	6	35	26	36
Vitoria	22	10	4	8	39	32	34
Fluminense	22	10	4	8	36	41	34
Coritiba	22	10	3	9	31	28	33
Goias	23	9	6	8	39	36	33
Ponte Preta	22	9	4	9	30	28	31
At Paranaense	23	8	7	8	34	29	31
Cruzeiro	22	8	6	8	33	38	30
Guarani	22	8	4	10	27	32	28
Figueirense	23	8	3	12	30	40	27
Portuguesa	22	7	6	9	23	32	27
Parana	22	8	2	12	34	37	26
Vasco da Gama	22	8	2	12	30	36	26
Internacional	22	6	8	8	32	33	26
Palmeiras	23	6	8	9	33	41	26
Paysandu	22	8	1	13	32	42	25
Flamengo	22	7	4	11	33	35	25
Bahia	22	7	4	11	30	34	25
Gama	23	6	4	13	22	33	22
Botafogo (Rio)	22	5	7	10	22	35	22

CHILE

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 9: Rangers 1 Coquimbo Unido 1.
Oct 11: Dep Concepcion 0 San Felipe 2.
Oct 12: Cobreloa 7 Dep Temuco 1; Palestino 1 Huachipato 1; Santiago Wanderers 2 Santiago Morning 0; U Catolica 1 U de Chile 1.
Oct 13: Union Espanola 2 Audax Italiano 0; Coquimbo Unido 0 Cobresal 0; Colo Colo 3 Rangers 1.
Oct 19: Union Espanola 3 Coquimbo Unido 0; Cobresal 1 U Catolica 3.
Oct 20: San Felipe 2 Colo Colo 0; Audax Italiano 2 Santiago Morning 1; Rangers 1 Santiago Wanderers 1; Dep Temuco 1 Dep Concepcion 2; Huachipato 1 Cobreloa 1; U de Chile 3 Palestino 1.
Oct 26: Santiago Wanderers 1 San Felipe 0; Palestino 2 Cobresal 0; Colo Colo 1 Dep Temuco 1; Coquimbo Unido 0 Audax Italiano 0.
Oct 27: Cobreloa 1 U de Chile 1; Santiago Morning 2 Rangers 0; U Catolica 1 Union Espanola 1; Dep Concepcion 1 Huachipato 2.
Nov 2: Union Espanola 1 Palestino 1; Dep Temuco 0 Santiago Wanderers 2; U de Chile 2 Dep Concepcion 1; San Felipe 1 Santiago Morning 1.
Nov 3: Huachipato 0 Colo Colo 0; Cobresal 1 Cobreloa 1; Audax Italiano 1 Rangers 1; Coquimbo Unido 1 U Catolica 1.

CHILE: CLOSING – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colo Colo	12	5	4	3	18	13	19
Huachipato	12	4	5	3	18	13	17
Dep Concepcion	12	3	3	6	15	20	12
Dep Temuco	12	1	3	8	11	29	6

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cobreloa	12	8	3	1	29	10	27
U Catolica	12	6	5	1	24	14	23
Cobresal	12	5	5	2	17	16	20
Audax Italiano	12	2	6	4	13	16	12

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Coquimbo Unido	12	3	5	4	9	11	14
Sant Morning	12	2	3	7	11	21	9
Palestino	12	1	5	6	11	20	8
Rangers	12	1	3	8	9	27	6

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U de Chile	12	6	5	1	20	11	23
Sant Wanderers	12	6	4	2	18	12	22
Union Espanola	12	6	3	3	20	11	21
San Felipe	12	5	2	5	16	15	17

COLOMBIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 5: Quindio 1 Indep Santa Fe 1.
Oct 6: Pereira 1 Once Caldas 1; Dep Pasto 2 Tulua 0; Millonarios 0 America 2; Dep Cali 1 Tolima 1; Magdalena 1 Bucaramanga 0; At Huila 1 Envigado 0; Real Cartagena 1 At Nacional 5; Indep Medellin 3 At Junior 1.
Oct 10: Tulua 1 Millonarios 0.
Oct 13: Bucaramanga 3 Indep Medellin 1; At Junior 2 At Huila 2; Envigado 0 Millonarios 1; America 3 Dep Pasto 0; Tulua 2 Pereira 1; Once Caldas 3 Quindio 1; Indep Santa Fe 0 Dep Cali 0; Tolima 2 Real Cartagena 0; At Nacional 0 Magdalena 1.
Oct 20: At Nacional 1 Bucaramanga 0; Magdalena 0 Tolima 0; Dep Cali 3 Once Caldas 0; Real Cartagena 2 Indep Santa Fe 4; At Huila 0 Indep Medellin 0; Millonarios 0 At Junior 2; Dep Pasto 1 Envigado 0; Quindio 2 Tulua 0.
Oct 21: Pereira 3 America 1.
Oct 27: Bucaramanga 3 At Huila 0; Indep Medellin 2 Millonarios 0; At Junior 3 Dep Pasto 4; Envigado 1 Pereira 2; America 2 Quindio 0; Once Caldas 3 Real Cartagena 0; Indep Santa Fe 3 Magdalena 3; Tolima 2 At Nacional 1.
Oct 30: Dep Cali 2 America 1.
Oct 31: Pereira 3 At Junior 1; Millonarios 3 At Huila 2; Dep Pasto 0 Indep Medellin 0; Real Cartagena 1 Tulua 0; Magdalena 2 Once Caldas 0; Tolima 1 Bucaramanga 1; At Nacional 2 Indep Santa Fe 0; Quindio 1 Envigado 1.
Nov 3: Bucaramanga 1 Millonarios 1; Tulua 2 Magdalena 1; Indep Santa Fe 2 Tolima 2; America 2 Real Cartagena 1; Indep Medellin 4 Pereira 0; At Junior 1 Quindio 0; At Huila 3 Dep Pasto 1; Once Caldas 1 At Nacional 0.

COLOMBIA – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Cali	18	12	4	2	32	11	40
Dep Pasto	20	11	3	6	31	29	36
America	20	9	3	8	21	21	30
Bucaramanga	20	8	6	6	31	26	30
Magdalena	20	8	6	6	23	23	30
Tolima	20	7	9	4	28	24	30
Indep Santa Fe	20	7	8	5	32	26	29
Indep Medellin	20	7	8	5	21	16	29
Once Caldas	20	6	11	3	21	16	29
At Nacional	20	7	7	6	24	18	28
Pereira	20	7	5	8	25	29	26
Tulua	19	7	4	8	18	21	25
Quindio	20	7	4	9	17	22	25
At Huila	20	5	7	8	18	26	22
At Junior	20	4	9	7	26	29	21
Real Cartagena	20	5	4	11	16	29	19
Millonarios	20	4	5	11	20	30	17
Envigado	19	3	5	11	15	23	14

ECUADOR

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 13: Aucas 2 Espoli 1; Dep Cuenca 3 Emelec 0; Barcelona 3 Dep Quito 1; El Nacional 3 Macara 1; LDU Quito 3 Olmedo 0.

ECUADOR: CLOSING – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Quito	18	10	7	1	34	21	37
El Nacional	18	9	7	2	29	14	34
LDU Quito	18	9	4	5	30	19	31
Dep Cuenca	18	9	4	5	27	21	31
Emelec	18	6	4	8	27	30	22
Barcelona	18	5	5	8	23	26	20
Espoli	18	4	6	8	27	35	18
Olmedo	18	3	9	6	18	27	18
Aucas	18	3	8	7	26	35	17
Macara	18	2	6	10	17	30	12

Top three qualified for overall championship play-offs

OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

Oct 27: Aucas 3 Emelec 0; Dep Quito 0 El Nacional 1; Barcelona 2 LDU Quito 0.
Nov 3: LDU Quito 3 Aucas 2; El Nacional 2 Barcelona 1; Emelec 2 Dep Quito 1.

ECUADOR – CHAMP'SHIP PLAY-OFFS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
El Nacional	2	2	0	0	3	1	8	[2]
Barcelona	2	1	0	1	3	2	6	[3]
LDU Quito	2	1	0	1	3	4	4	[1]
Emelec	2	1	0	1	2	4	4	[1]
Aucas	2	1	0	1	5	3	3	[0]
Dep Quito	2	0	0	2	1	3	3	[3]

Bonus points in brackets

PARAGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 4: Libertad 1 Sportivo Luqueno 2.
Oct 5: Recoleta 0 12 de Octubre 3.
Oct 6: Cerro Porteno 0 Sport Colombia 1; Sol de America 2 San Lorenzo 1; Guarani 2 Olimpia 2.
Oct 11: Recoleta 1 Olimpia 2; Libertad 6 12 de Octubre 4; Sportivo Luqueno 1 San Lorenzo 0.
Oct 13: Sol de America 0 Sport Colombia 2; Guarani 0 Cerro Porteno 3.
Oct 19: Olimpia 1 Sol de America 1; Cerro Porteno 1 Recoleta 1.
Oct 20: San Lorenzo 2 Guarani 4; Sport Colombia 1 Libertad 2; 12 de Octubre 2 Sportivo Luqueno 1.
Oct 23: Olimpia 0 Cerro Porteno 0; San Lorenzo 0 Libertad 1; 12 de Octubre 1 Sol de America 0; Sport Colombia 2 Recoleta 0; Sportivo Luqueno 0 Guarani 3.
Oct 26: Sol de America 2 Cerro Porteno 0.
Oct 27: Guarani 1 Recoleta 1; San Lorenzo 0 12 de Octubre 1; Sportivo Luqueno 1 Sport Colombia 2; Libertad 1 Olimpia 3.

PARAGUAY – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olimpia	17	8	5	4	31	23	29
12 de Octubre	17	9	2	6	27	22	29
Libertad	17	8	4	5	31	21	28
Guarani	17	7	5	5	27	23	26
Sportivo Luqueno	17	7	5	5	17	15	26
Sport Colombia	17	7	2	8	22	27	23
Cerro Porteno	17	5	6	6	19	17	21
Recoleta	17	4	6	7	15	22	18
Sol de America	17	4	5	8	15	21	17
San Lorenzo	17	5	2	10	15	28	17

PERU

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 5: Sporting Cristal 2 Alianza Atletico 0.
Oct 6: Alianza Lima 4 Cienciano 2; Estudiantes 1 Universitario 0; Dep Wanka 4 Sport Boys 1; Coronel Bolognesi 1 Melgar 0; Juan Aurich 3 Coopsol Trujillo 1.
Oct 9: Sport Boys 1 Alianza Lima 0.
Oct 12: Sporting Cristal 2 Coopsol Trujillo 0.
Oct 13: Universitario 0 Sport Boys 2; Melgar 0 Alianza Lima 2; Dep Wanka 4 Estudiantes 2; Cienciano 2 Coronel Bolognesi 1; Juan Aurich 0 Alianza Atletico 1.
Oct 19: Coronel Bolognesi 1 Dep Wanka 0.
Oct 20: Alianza Atletico 3 Melgar 2; Sport Boys 0 Sporting Cristal 0; Estudiantes 4 Juan Aurich 1; Coopsol Trujillo 2 Cienciano 2.
Oct 26: Sporting Cristal 4 Estudiantes 1.
Oct 27: Melgar 2 Coopsol Trujillo 0; Universitario 2 Coronel Bolognesi 2; Dep Wanka 3 Alianza Lima 1; Juan Aurich 0 Sport Boys 0; Cienciano 4 Alianza Atletico 1.
Oct 30: Alianza Lima 3 Universitario 2.

PERU – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting Cristal	16	11	5	0	36	6	38
Alianza Atletico	16	9	3	4	22	19	30
Alianza Lima	15	8	4	3	24	15	28
Dep Wanka	16	6	7	3	24	19	25
Cienciano	16	7	3	6	34	33	24
Coronel Bolognesi	16	7	3	6	18	18	24
Sport Boys	16	6	5	5	22	16	23
Estudiantes	16	6	4	6	27	20	22
Melgar	16	3	5	8	14	24	14
Universitario	16	3	4	9	19	28	13
Juan Aurich	16	2	4	10	9	25	10
Coopsol Trujillo	15	2	3	10	9	35	9

URUGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 11: Villa Espanola 0 Danubio 2.
Oct 12: Plaza 1 Nacional 2.
Oct 13: Central Espanol 0 Dep Maldonado 1; Wanderers 1 Defensor 2; Fenix 2 Penarol 3.
Oct 19: Nacional 5 Villa Espanola 0; Dep Maldonado 1 Danubio 3; Defensor 2 Fenix 3.
Oct 20: Plaza 2 Central Espanol 1; Penarol 2 Wanderers 2.
Oct 25: Defensor 2 Central Espanol 0.
Oct 26: Penarol 3 Plaza 4; Dep Maldonado 2 Villa Espanola 3.
Oct 27: Danubio 1 Wanderers 0; Fenix 3 Nacional 3.
Nov 1: Fenix 5 Dep Maldonado 0.
Nov 2: Wanderers 0 Nacional 1; Central Espanol 0 Danubio 2.
Nov 3: Villa Espanola 1 Penarol 3; Plaza 2 Defensor 2.

URUGUAY – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Danubio	6	5	1	0	12	3	16
Penarol*	7	5	1	1	18	13	13
Fenix	6	3	2	1	17	11	11
Nacional	6	3	2	1	14	9	11
Plaza	6	3	1	2	11	9	10
Defensor	6	2	2	2	11	10	8
Wanderers	6	1	2	3	5	7	5
Villa Espanola	6	1	2	3	8	16	5
Dep Maldonado	6	1	0	5	5	15	3
Central Espanol	7	0	1	6	4	12	1

**3pts deducted for crowd trouble during a home match in Closing 2001*

VENEZUELA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 11: Estudiantes 1 Dep Tachira 2.
Oct 12: Ital-Chacao 4 Monagas 1; Mineros Guayana 0 Caracas 1; Nacional 0 Maracaibo 2.
Oct 13: Carabobo 2 Trujillanos 1.
Oct 25: Mineros Guayana 2 Estudiantes 3.
Oct 27: Caracas 3 Monagas 1; Maracaibo 2 Ital-Chacao 2; Trujillanos 2 Nacional 3; Dep Tachira 1 Carabobo 2.
Nov 3: Estudiantes 2 Caracas 2; Carabobo 2 Mineros Guayana 1; Nacional 1 Dep Tachira 2; Ital-Chacao 2 Trujillanos 0; Monagas 1 Maracaibo 0.

VENEZUELA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caracas	12	7	4	1	22	12	25
Dep Tachira	12	5	5	2	17	14	20
Estudiantes	12	5	4	3	18	18	19
Ital-Chacao	12	4	6	2	20	15	18
Carabobo	12	4	5	3	14	12	17
Monagas	12	5	0	7	16	19	15
Maracaibo	12	3	5	4	13	15	14
Nacional	12	4	2	6	11	16	14
Mineros Guayana	12	3	4	5	14	16	13
Trujillanos	12	2	1	9	16	24	7

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

MEXICO

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 12: Toluca 5 Jaguares 1; Monterrey 1 Cruz Azul 1; Veracruz 2 Tecos UAG 1; Morelia 1 Pachuca 1; Atlas 3 America 2.
Oct 13: Atlante 0 Guadalajara 0; Pumas UNAM 3 Tigres 2; Gallos Blancos 1 Puebla 3; Santos 2 At Celaya 0; Necaxa 3 San Luis 2.
Oct 16: Jaguares 0 Atlas 2; Cruz Azul 1 Toluca 1; Pachuca 0 Pumas UNAM 3; Tigres 1 Veracruz 1; Tecos UAG 0 Monterrey 0; San Luis 2 Atlante 2; Guadalajara 1 Morelia 0.
Oct 17: America 3 Gallos Blancos 1; At Celaya 0 Puebla 3; Santos 3 Necaxa 2.
Oct 19: Toluca 6 Tecos UAG 0; Veracruz 1 Pachuca 1; Monterrey 1 Tigres 1; Pumas UNAM 7 Guadalajara 1; Atlas 3 Cruz Azul 2.
Oct 20: Atlante 3 Santos 1; Puebla 0 America 1; Gallos Blancos 3 Jaguares 3; Morelia 3 San Luis 2; Necaxa 0 At Celaya 2.
Oct 23: Cruz Azul 3 Pachuca 2.
Oct 26: Jaguares 2 Puebla 0; At Celaya 0 America 1; Tigres 2 Toluca 2; Cruz Azul 1 Gallos Blancos 1.
Oct 27: Pachuca 1 Monterrey 3; Guadalajara 2 Veracruz 1; San Luis 6 Pumas UNAM 3; Santos 2 Morelia 2; Necaxa 3 Atlante 0; Tecos UAG 1 Atlas 0.
Nov 2: Veracruz 3 San Luis 1; Morelia 6 Necaxa 0; Monterrey 0 Guadalajara 2; Atlas 1 Tigres 0; Toluca 5 Pachuca 1.
Nov 3: America 0 Jaguares 0; Puebla 1 Cruz Azul 2; Pumas UNAM 1 Santos 0; Gallos Blancos 2 Tecos UAG 0; Atlante 4 At Celaya 2.

MEXICO: OPENING – GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toluca	16	11	4	1	47	16	37
America	16	11	3	2	30	12	36
Atlas	16	7	0	9	26	27	21
Puebla	16	5	3	8	18	24	18
At Celaya	16	5	3	8	20	28	18

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pumas UNAM	16	9	2	5	33	31	29
Tecos UAG	16	6	5	5	20	25	23
Monterrey	16	5	6	5	17	15	21
Tigres	16	5	5	6	27	29	20
Pachuca	16	2	7	7	18	31	13

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Morelia	16	9	3	4	31	18	30
Cruz Azul	16	6	5	5	26	23	23
San Luis	16	4	6	6	26	25	18
Necaxa	16	5	2	9	23	31	17
Jaguares	16	3	6	7	16	28	15

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guadalajara	16	5	8	3	21	21	23
Atlante	16	4	7	5	24	27	19
Santos	16	5	4	7	21	24	19
Veracruz	16	4	6	6	27	30	18
Gallos Blancos	16	4	5	7	21	27	17

LEADING GOALSCORERS
25 Jose Cardozo (Toluca)
12 Jared Borgetti (Santos)
11 Alex Fernandez (Morelia)

UNITED STATES

MLS Cup (championship Final)

Oct 20 - Gillette stadium, Foxboro
New England Revolution 0
Los Angeles Galaxy 1 (Ruiz 113 - golden goal)
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 0-0. **Att:** 61,316. **Ref:** Terry

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

October 18

Al Ahly (Egy) 3
Raja Casablanca (Mor) 3

TP Mazembe (DRC) 3
Jeanne d'Arc (Sen) 1

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Raja Casablanca	6	4	1	1	10	8	13
TP Mazembe	6	3	1	2	6	3	10
Jeanne d'Arc	6	2	0	4	7	10	6
Al Ahly	6	1	2	3	7	9	5

Group B

October 19

Costa do Sol (Moz) 0
ASEC Abidjan (IvC) 2

Zamalek (Egy) 1
Esperance (Tun) 0

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zamalek	6	4	1	1	10	3	13
ASEC Abidjan	6	4	0	2	12	6	12
Esperance	6	3	1	2	9	6	10
Costa do Sol	6	0	0	6	1	17	0

Semi-finals, 1st legs

November 2

ASEC Abidjan 2 (N'Dri 80, 88)
Raja Casablanca 0
HT: 0-0

November 3

TP Mazembe 1 (Ngoy 43)
Zamalek 1 (Ali 47)
HT: 1-0

CUP-WINNERS CUP

Semi-finals, 2nd legs

Oct 20: AS Police (Con) 2 Asante Kotoko (Gha) 3 *Kotoko 7-2 on agg*; USM Alger (Alg) 2 Wydad Casablanca (Mor) 2 *Agg 2-2. Wydad on away goals.*

CAF CUP

Semi-finals, 2nd legs

Oct 18: JS Kabylie (Alg) 2 Al Masry (Egy) 0 *Kabylie 2-1 on agg.*
Oct 20: Satellite (IvC) 2 Tonnerre Yaounde (Cam) 1 *Agg 2-2. Tonnerre on away goals.*

ASIA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

WEST ASIA ZONE

1st qual rnd

Aug 13: Al Wihdat (Jor) 3 Al Nijmeh (Leb) 2.
Aug 28: Al Nijmeh 0 Al Wihdat 0.
Al Wihdat 3-2 on agg

Al Ansar (Leb) v Al Nasr (Oma) – Al Nasr withdrew; Al Ansar walkover

Byes: Al Ittihad (Syr), Al Kuwait (Kuw), Busaiteen (Bah), Jashtyk (Kyr), Kopetdag (Tkm), Riffa Club (Bah).

2nd qual rnd, 1st legs

Sep 10: Al Ansar 1 Al Faisaly (Jor) 0.
Sep 11: Al Ahli (UAE) 2 Al Kuwait 0; Jashtyk 0 Ahli Sana'a (Yem) 2; Pakhtakor (Uzb) 3 Al Wihdat 0.

Kopetdag v Al Saad (Qat) – Kopetdag withdrew; Al Sadd walkover;
Bahrain's representatives (Busaiteen and Riffa Club) were refused entry by the AFC; their two opponents – Al Jaish (Syr) and Al Quds (Pal) respectively – walkover;
Khudjand (Taj) v Al Ittihad – Khudjand suspended by the AFC; Al Ittihad walkover

2nd qual rnd, 2nd legs

Sep 24: Al Kuwait 3 Al Ahli (UAE) 1 *Agg 3-3. Al Ahli on away goals.*
Sep 25: Ahli Sana'a 2 Jashtyk 0 *Ahli Sana'a 4-0 on agg*; Al Faisaly 3 Al Ansar 0 *Al Faisaly 3-1 on agg.*
Sep 27: Al Wihdat 3 Pakhtakor 1 *Pakhtakor 4-3 on agg.*

3rd qual rnd, 1st legs

Oct 8: Al Ittihad 1 Al Arabi (Kuw) 1.
Oct 9: Ahli Sana'a 1 Neftchi (Uzb) 2; Al Ahli (UAE) 3 Al Ahli (Sau) 2; Al Saad 1 Al Zawra (Irq) 1; Esteghlal (Irn) 2 Al Faisaly 0.
Oct 10: Al Etehad (Qat) 4 Pakhtakor 3.

Al Jaish v Regar-Tadaz (Taj) – Regar suspended by the AFC; Al Jaish walkover;
Al Quds v Nisa (Tur) – Al Quds withdrew; Nisa walkover

3rd qual rnd, 2nd legs

Oct 23: Al Ahli (Sau) 2 Al Ahli (UAE) 2 *Al Ahli (UAE) 5-4 on agg*; Al Arabi 4 Al Ittihad 0 *Al Arabi 5-1 on agg*; Neftchi 6 Ahli Sana'a 0 *Neftchi 8-1 on agg.*
Oct 24: Al Faisaly 0 Esteghlal 1 *Esteghlal 3-0 on agg.*
Oct 25: Al Zawra 1 Al Saad 2 (aet) *Al Saad 3-2 on agg*; Pakhtakor 3 Al Etehad 0 *Pakhtakor 6-4 on agg.*

EAST ASIA ZONE

1st qual rnd, 1st legs

Sep 10: Saunders (Sri) 0 Mohun Bagan (Ind) 2; Air Force (Sri) 1 New Radiant (Mdv) 1.

1st qual rnd, 2nd legs

Sep 22: Mohun Bagan 5 Saunders 1 *Mohun Bagan 7-1 on agg*; New Radiant 2 Air Force 1 (aet) *New Radiant 3-2 on agg.*

Byes: Churchill Brothers (Ind), DPMM (Bru), Home United (Sin), Monte Carlo (Mco), Persita Tangerang (Ins), Petrokimia Putra (Ins).

2nd qual rnd, 1st legs

Oct 6: Geylang United (Sin) 3 DPMM 0.
Oct 8: Petrokimia Putra 3 Shanghai Shenhua (Chn) 1; South China (HK) 2 Home United 1.
Oct 9: Mohun Bagan 2 Valencia (Mdv) 2; Monte Carlo 1 Daejeon Citizen (SKo) 5; Persita Tangerang 0 Osotspa (Tha) 1; Shimizu S-Pulse (Jap) 7 New Radiant 0.
Oct 11: Churchill Brothers 2 Saigon Port (Vie) 0

2nd qual rnd, 2nd legs

Oct 22: Home United 1 South China 1 *South China 3-2 on agg*; Osotspa 0 Persita Tangerang 0 *Osotspa 1-0 on agg*; Valencia 0 Mohun Bagan 3 *Mohun Bagan 5-2 on agg.*
Oct 23: Daejeon Citizen 3 Monte Carlo 0 *Daejeon 8-1 on agg*; DPMM 0 Geylang United 4 *Geylang 7-0 on agg*; New Radiant 0 Shimizu S-Pulse 0 *S-Pulse 7-0 on agg*; Shanghai Shenhua 5 Petrokimia Putra 1 *Shanghai 6-4 on agg.*
Oct 25: Saigon Port 1 Churchill Brothers 0 *Churchill 2-1 on agg.*

JAPAN

SECOND STAGE

Oct 5: JEF United Ichihara 0 Tokyo Verdy 1969 2; FC Tokyo 0 Kashiwa Reysol 1; Shimizu S-Pulse 3 Consadole Sapporo 0; Gamba Osaka 0 Jubilo Iwata 2; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1 Vegalta Sendai 2 (aet); Urawa Reds 3 Vissel Kobe 0.
Oct 6: Kashima Antlers 4 Nagoya Grampus Eight 1; Yokohama F Marinos 0 Kyoto Purple Sanga 1.
Oct 12: Consadole Sapporo 0 FC Tokyo 4; Tokyo Verdy 1969 2 Shimizu S-Pulse 0; Jubilo Iwata 1 JEF United Ichihara 2; Vissel Kobe 1 Kashima Antlers 0; Vegalta Sendai 0 Gamba Osaka 6; Kyoto Purple Sanga 1 Urawa Reds 4.
Oct 13: Kashiwa Reysol 0 Yokohama F Marinos 1 (aet); Nagoya Grampus Eight 3 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1.
Oct 19: Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0 Tokyo Verdy 1969 0 (aet); Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Kyoto Purple Sanga 1; Gamba Osaka 1 Consadole Sapporo 0; Yokohama F Marinos 2 Kashima Antlers 0; Urawa Reds 2 Nagoya Grampus Eight 1 (aet); FC Tokyo 3 Vissel Kobe 2 (aet).
Oct 20: Vegalta Sendai 2 Jubilo Iwata 3 (aet); JEF United Ichihara 2 Kashiwa Reysol 1.
Oct 23: Consadole Sapporo 1 JEF United Ichihara 0; Kashima Antlers 2 Urawa Reds 1; Tokyo Verdy 1969 0 Gamba Osaka 3; Jubilo Iwata 1 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0; Nagoya Grampus Eight 3 Vegalta Sendai 1; Kyoto Purple Sanga 0 FC Tokyo 1; Vissel Kobe 1 Yokohama F Marinos 2 (aet).
Oct 26: Vissel Kobe 3 Kashiwa Reysol 1; Yokohama F Marinos 1 Jubilo Iwata 3; Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1 (aet); Kyoto Purple Sanga 2 Nagoya Grampus Eight 1 (aet); FC Tokyo 2 Vegalta Sendai 0; JEF United Ichihara 0 Gamba Osaka 1 (aet).
Oct 27: Kashima Antlers 3 Consadole Sapporo 2 (aet); Urawa Reds 0 Tokyo Verdy 1969 1 (aet).

JAPAN – SECOND STAGE

	P	W1	W2	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jubilo Iwata	11	7	2	0	2	23	9	25
Gamba Osaka	11	6	2	0	3	21	8	22
Urawa Reds	11	4	4	1	2	20	10	21
Kashima Antlers	11	6	1	0	4	20	16	20
FC Tokyo	11	6	1	0	4	17	14	20
Tokyo Verdy	11	5	1	2	3	19	11	19
Kyoto PS	11	4	2	0	5	12	16	16
Vissel Kobe	11	4	1	0	6	15	17	14
Grampus Eight	11	4	0	1	6	18	18	13
Yokohama FM	11	2	3	1	5	12	14	13
Kashiwa Reysol	10	3	0	3	4	9	11	12
Shimizu S-Pulse	10	3	1	0	6	11	16	11
JEF United	11	3	0	0	8	10	16	9
Sanfrecce H	11	2	1	1	7	9	15	9
Vegalta Sendai	11	2	1	0	8	11	23	8
Consadole Sapp	11	1	0	1	9	7	20	4

W1 = win in 90mins – 3pts; W2 = win in extra time – 2pts; Draw = 1pt

WORLD SERVICE

AEK ATHENS

GOALKEEPERS

1	Elias ATMATSIDIS	24.04.69
22	Dionisios CHIOTIS	04.06.77
33	Chrysostomos MIHAILIDIS	15.01.75

DEFENDERS

2	Vassilis BORBOKIS	10.02.69
31	Grigoris GEORGATOS	31.10.72
16	Nikolaos GEORGEAS	27.12.76
32	Mihalis KAPSIS	18.10.73
17	Mihalis KASSAPIS	06.06.71
5	Nikos KOSTENOGLOU	03.10.70
25	Stelios MAISTRELIS	10.11.79
19	Mauricio WRIGHT (CR)	20.12.70

MIDFIELDERS

18	Walter CENTENO (CR)	06.10.74
21	Konstantinos KATSOURANIS	21.06.79
8	Michel KREEK (Hol)	16.01.71
23	Vassilios LAKIS	10.09.76
7	Christos MALADENIS	23.05.74
28	Milen PETKOV (Bul)	12.01.74
15	Livio Armando PRIETO (Arg)	31.07.81
10	Vassilios TSARTAS	12.11.72
6	Theodoros ZAGORAKIS	27.10.71

FORWARDS

30	Ilija IVIC (Yug)	17.02.71
20	Sotirios KONSTANTINIDIS	19.04.77
24	Christos KOSTIS	15.01.72
37	Dimitrios NALITZIS	25.01.76
11	Themistoklis NIKOLAIDIS	17.09.73

COACH

Dusan BAYEVIC

B LIST (PLAYERS BORN AFTER 01/01/81)

none

AJAX

GOALKEEPERS

21	Joe DIDULICA (Aus)	14.10.77
41	Fred GRIM	17.08.65
1	Bogdan LOBONT (Rom)	18.01.78
32	Henk TIMMER	03.12.71

DEFENDERS

3	Andre BERGDOLMO (Nor)	13.10.71
5	Cristian CHIVU (Rom)	26.10.80
18	John O'BRIEN (USA)	29.08.77
16	Petri PASANEN (Fin)	24.09.80
2	Hatem TRABELSI (Tun)	25.01.77
24	Jelle VAN DAMME (Blg)	10.10.83

MIDFIELDERS

4	Tomas GALASEK (Cze)	15.01.73
20	Jari LITMANEN (Fin)	20.02.71
13	MAXWELL (Bra)	27.08.81
10	Steven PIENAAR (SAf)	17.03.82
14	Jan VAN HALST	20.04.69
6	Aron WINTER	01.03.67
8	Richard WITSCHGE	20.09.69

FORWARDS

28	Nourdin BOUKHARI	30.06.80
11	Ahmed HOSSAM (Egy)	23.02.83
9	Zlatan IBRAHIMOVIC (Swe)	03.10.81
19	Nikos MACHLAS (Gre)	16.06.73
27	Victor SIKORA	11.04.78
7	Andy VAN DER MEYDE	30.09.79
17	WAMBERTO (Bra)	13.12.74

COACH

Ronald KOEMAN

B LIST

33	Kiran BECHAN (F)	12.09.82
34	Daniel CRUZ (M, Col)	09.05.81
26	Nigel DE JONG (D)	30.11.84
12	John HEITINGA (D)	15.11.83
35	Michael KROHN-DEHLI (F, Den)	06.06.83
36	Jussi KUJALA (M, Fin)	04.04.83
30	Stefano SEEDORF (M)	28.04.82
37	Wesley SNEIJDER (M)	09.06.84
31	Maarten STEKELENBURG (G)	22.09.82
23	Raphael VAN DER VAART (M)	11.02.83
22	Abubakari YAKUBU (D, Gha)	13.12.81
38	Robert ZWINKELS (G)	04.05.83

ARSENAL

GOALKEEPERS

1	David SEAMAN	19.09.63
24	Rami SHAABAN (Swe)	30.06.75
13	Stuart TAYLOR	28.11.80

DEFENDERS

23	Sol CAMPBELL	18.09.74
3	Ashley COLE	20.12.80
18	Pascal CYGAN (Fra)	29.04.74
5	Martin KEOWN	24.07.66
12	LAUREN Etame-Mayer (Cam)	19.01.77
22	Oleh LUZHNYI (Ukr)	05.08.68
26	Igor STEPANOVS (Lat)	21.01.76
27	Efstathios TAVLARIDIS (Gre)	25.01.80
20	Matthew UPSON	18.04.79

MIDFIELDERS

17	EDU (Bra)	16.05.78
19	GILBERTO SILVA (Bra)	07.10.76
8	Fredrik LJUNGBERG (Swe)	16.04.77
15	Ray PARLOUR	07.03.73
7	Robert PIRES (Fra)	29.01.73
28	Kolo Abib TOURE (IvC)	19.03.81
16	Giovanni VAN BRONCKHORST (Hol)	05.02.75
4	Patrick VIEIRA (Fra)	23.06.76

FORWARDS

10	Dennis BERGKAMP (Hol)	10.05.69
14	Thierry HENRY (Fra)	17.08.77
9	Francis JEFFERS	25.01.81
25	Nwankwo KANU (Nig)	01.08.76
11	Sylvain WILTORD (Fra)	10.05.74

COACH

Arsene WENGER (Fra)

B LIST

30	Jeremie ALIADIERE (F, Fra)	30.03.83
33	Alex BAILEY (D)	21.09.83
34	Graham BARRETT (F, Ire)	06.10.81
35	David BENTLEY (F)	27.08.84
36	Adam BIRCHALL (F, Wal)	02.12.84
37	Jermaine BROWN (F)	12.01.83
38	Ben CHORLEY (D)	30.09.82
39	Jordan FOWLER (M)	01.10.84
40	Ryan GARRY (D)	29.09.83
41	Craig HOLLOWAY (G)	10.08.84
42	Justin HOYTE (D)	20.11.84
43	Nicky NICOLAU (D)	12.10.83
44	David NOBLE (M)	02.02.82
21	Jermaine PENNANT (F)	15.01.83
45	Steven SIDWELL (M)	14.12.82
46	John SPICER (M)	13.09.83
47	Jerome THOMAS (F)	23.03.83
29	Moritz VOLZ (M, Ger)	21.01.83

AUXERRE

GOALKEEPERS

1	Fabien COOL	29.08.72
16	Sebastien HAMEL	20.11.75

DEFENDERS

6	Kuami AGBOH	28.12.77
32	Philip Enyeama ANIEKAN (Nig)	17.05.82
29	Joseph ASSATI	29.09.74
4	Jean-Alain BOUMSONG	14.12.79
13	Stephane GRICHTING (Swi)	30.03.79
3	Jean-Sebastien JAURES	30.09.77
15	Frederic JAY	20.09.76
26	Jean PERRIER DOUMBE	27.09.78
2	Johan RADET	24.11.76

MIDFIELDERS

24	Pierre DEBLOCK	01.05.73
11	Khalilou FADIGA (Sen)	30.12.74
7	Amdy FAYE (Sen)	12.03.77
8	Yann LACHUER	05.08.72
27	Pantxi SIRIEIX	07.10.80
10	Teemu TAINIO (Fin)	27.11.79
14	David VANDENBOSSCHE	27.09.80

FORWARDS

17	Helder ESTEVES (Por)	01.07.77
20	Arnaud GONZALEZ	24.08.77
22	Pedro KAMATA	06.09.81
23	Olivier KAPO Obou	27.09.80
19	Nicolas MARIN	29.08.80
21	Benjani MWARUWARI (Zim)	13.08.78
28	Romain POYET	25.11.80

COACH

Guy ROUX

B LIST

37	Ferdinand BITANGANE (M, Cam)	03.01.84
30	Baptiste CHABERT (M)	07.04.83
9	Djibril CISSE (F)	12.08.81
38	Sebastien COCHET (M)	14.02.82
39	Rafik DJEBBOUR (F)	08.03.84
44	Christophe LANGLOIS (M)	11.01.81
43	Guillaume LEGACHEUR (M)	01.08.82
40	Kevin LEJEUNE (F)	22.01.85
34	Benoit LEROY (F)	28.07.82
41	Baptiste LLOP (M)	01.02.83
18	Lionel MATHIS (M)	04.10.81
5	Philippe MEXES (D)	30.03.82
36	Jean-Pascal MIGNOT (M)	26.02.81
42	Julien PETITJEAN (M)	20.03.84
35	Richard SURIANO (M)	28.01.82
31	Hassan YEBDA (M)	14.05.84

BARCELONA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Roberto BONANO (Arg)	24.01.70
25	Robert ENKE (Ger)	24.08.77

DEFENDERS

4	Patrik ANDERSSON (Swe)	18.08.71
12	Philippe CHRISTANVAL (Fra)	31.08.78
3	Frank DE BOER (Hol)	15.05.70
32	OLEGUER Presas	02.02.80
5	Carlos PUYOL	13.04.78
2	Michael REIZIGER (Hol)	03.05.73

MIDFIELDERS

8	Philip COCU (Hol)	29.10.70
19	DANI Garcia	22.12.74
18	GABRI Garcia	10.02.79
14	GERARD Lopez	12.03.79
21	LUIS ENRIQUE	08.05.70
17	Gaizka MENDIETA	27.03.74
15	Fabio ROCHEMBACK (Bra)	10.12.81
36	David SANCHEZ	25.07.82
6	XAVI Hernandez	25.01.80

FORWARDS

22	GEOVANNI (Bra)	11.01.80
9	Patrick KLUIVERT (Hol)	01.07.76
11	Marc OVERMARS (Hol)	29.03.73
10	Juan RIQUELME (Arg)	24.06.78
7	Javier SAVIOLA (Arg)	11.12.81

COACH

Louis VAN GAAL (Hol)

B LIST

33	DANI Tortolero (M)	06.09.81
34	Andres INIESTA (M)	11.05.84
31	Thiago MOTTA (M, Ita)	28.08.82
35	FERNANDO Navarro (D)	25.06.82
26	VICTOR VALDES (G)	14.01.82

BASLE

GOALKEEPERS

18	Eric RAPO	06.03.72
1	Pascal ZUBERBUHLER	08.01.71

DEFENDERS

16	Gregory DURUZ	20.04.77
20	Bernt HAAS	08.04.78
38	Ljubo MILICEVIC (Aus)	13.02.81
4	Alexandre QUENNOZ	21.09.78
15	Murat YAKIN	15.09.74
5	Marco ZWYSSIG	24.10.71

MIDFIELDERS

24	Thimothee ATOUBA (Cam)	17.02.82
12	Sebastien BARBERIS	31.05.72
17	Mario CANTALUPPI	11.04.74
26	Scott CHIPPERFIELD (Aus)	30.12.75
22	Ivan ERGIC (Yug)	21.01.81
7	Antonio ESPOSITO	13.12.72
6	Benjamin HUGGEL	07.07.77
8	Carlos VARELA (Spa)	15.09.77

FORWARDS

13	Christian GIMENEZ (Arg)	13.11.74
9	George KOUMANTARAKIS (SAf)	27.03.74
33	Julio ROSSI (Arg)	22.02.77
19	Marco STRELLER	18.06.81
11	Herve TUM (Cam)	15.02.79
10	Hakan YAKIN	22.02.77

COACH

Christian GROSS

B LIST

23	Philipp DEGEN (D)	15.02.83
37	Cyrill HASLER (D)	05.05.83
14	Nenad SAVIC (M)	28.01.81

BAYER LEVERKUSEN

GOALKEEPERS

1	Hans-Jorg BUTT	28.05.74
20	Frank JURIC (Aus)	28.10.73

DEFENDERS

4	JUAN (Bra)	01.02.79
47	Thomas KLEINE	28.12.77
3	LUCIO (Bra)	08.05.78
5	Jens NOWOTNY	11.01.74
35	Diego PLACENTE (Arg)	24.04.77
6	Boris ZIVKOVIC (Cro)	15.11.75

MIDFIELDERS

14	Hanno BALITSCH	02.01.81
10	Yildiray BASTURK (Tur)	24.12.78
13	Daniel BIEROFKA	07.02.79
33	Anel DZAKA	19.09.80
17	Pascal OJIGWE (Nig)	11.12.76
2	Christoph PREUSS	04.07.81
28	Carsten RAMELOW	20.03.74
25	Bernd SCHNEIDER	17.11.73
26	Zoltan SEBESCEN	01.10.75
8	Jan SIMAK (Cze)	13.10.78
15	Jurica VRANJES (Cro)	31.01.80

FORWARDS

12	Dimitar BERBATOV (Blg)	30.01.81
23	Thomas BRDARIC	23.01.75
11	FRANCA (Bra)	02.03.76
9	Ulf KIRSTEN	04.12.65
27	Oliver NEUVILLE	01.05.73

COACH

Klaus TOPPMOLLER

B LIST

19	Marko BABIC (M, Cro)	28.01.81
46	Mile BOZIC (D, Cro)	06.11.81
34	Huzefeye DOGAN (M)	01.01.81
51	Nasir EL KASMI (M)	02.10.82
16	Ioannis MASUANIDIS (F)	09.03.83
31	Tom STARKE (G)	18.03.81

BAYERN MUNICH

GOALKEEPERS

22	Bernd DREHER	02.11.66
1	Oliver KAHN	15.06.69
33	Stefan WESSELS	28.02.79

DEFENDERS

5	Robert KOVAC (Cro)	06.04.74
4	Samuel KUFFOUR (Gha)	03.09.76
25	Thomas LINKE	26.12.69
3	Bixente LIZARAZU (Fra)	09.12.69
2	Willy SAGNOL (Fra)	18.03.77
6	Pablo THIAM (Gui)	03.01.74

MIDFIELDERS

13	Michael BALLACK	26.09.76
26	Sebastian DEISLER	05.01.80
17	Thorsten FINK	29.10.67
16	Jens JEREMIES	05.03.74
8	Niko KOVAC (Cro)	15.10.71
20	Hasan SALIHAMIDZIC (Bos)	01.01.77
7	Mehmet SCHOLL	16.10.70
18	Michael TARNAT	27.10.69
11	ZE ROBERTO (Bra)	06.07.74

FORWARDS

9	Giovane ELBER (Bra)	23.07.72
14	Claudio PIZARRO (Per)	03.10.78
21	Alexander ZICKLER	28.02.74

COACH

Ottmar HITZFELD

B LIST

32	Markus FEULNER (M)	12.02.82
23	Owen HARGREAVES (M, Eng)	20.01.81
24	Roque SANTA CRUZ (F, Par)	16.08.81

WORLD SERVICE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SQUADS

BORUSSIA DORTMUND

GOALKEEPERS

1	Jens LEHMANN	10.11.69
28	Roman WEIDENFELLER	06.08.80

DEFENDERS

14	Guy DEMEL (Fra)	13.06.81
6	Jorg HEINRICH	06.12.69
5	Sebastian KEHL	13.02.80
21	Christoph METZELDER	05.11.80
23	Ahmed MADOUNI (Fra)	04.10.80
7	Stefan REUTER	16.10.66
27	Deniz SAHIN	08.08.77
4	Christian WORNS	10.05.72

MIDFIELDERS

17	DEDE (Bra)	18.04.78
2	EVANILSON (Bra)	12.09.75
3	Juan Ramon FERNANDEZ (Arg)	05.03.80
8	Torsten FRINGS	22.11.76
41	LEANDRO (Bra)	26.04.77
15	Sunday OLISEH (Nig)	14.01.74
18	Lars RICKEN	10.07.76
10	Tomas ROSICKY (Cze)	04.10.80

FORWARDS

19	Otto ADDO (Gha)	09.06.75
22	Marcio AMOROSO (Bra)	05.07.74
12	EWERTHON (Bra)	10.06.81
11	Heiko HERRLICH	03.12.71
9	Jan KOLLER (Cze)	30.03.73
13	Giuseppe REINA (Ita)	15.04.72
29	Jan SORENSEN (Nor)	28.12.71

COACH

Matthias SAMMER

B LIST

32	Timo ACHENBACH (M)	03.09.82
33	Salvatore GAMBINO (F, Ita)	27.11.83
24	David ODONKOR (F)	21.02.84
30	Michael RATAJCZAK (G)	16.04.82
35	Saher SENESIE (F)	20.06.85
38	Florian THORWART	20.04.82

CLUB BRUGGE

GOALKEEPERS

13	Dejan NEMEC (Sln)	01.03.77
23	Stijn STUNEN	07.04.81
1	Dany VERLINDEN	15.08.63

DEFENDERS

25	Hans CORNELIS	13.10.82
12	Tjorven DE BRUL	22.06.73
2	Olivier DE COCK	09.11.75
4	Milan LESNIAK (Yug)	09.09.75
26	Birger MAERTENS	28.06.80
3	Timmy SIMONS	11.12.76
30	Marek SPILAR (Slk)	11.02.75
5	Peter VAN DER HEYDEN	16.07.76

MIDFIELDERS

14	Nastja CEH (Sln)	26.01.78
6	Philippe CLEMENT	22.03.74
8	Gaetan ENGLEBERT	11.06.76
16	Serhii SEREBRENNIKOV (Ukr)	01.09.76
32	Alin STOICA (Rom)	10.12.79
7	Gert VERHEYEN	20.09.70

FORWARDS

17	Jose DUARTE (Bra)	06.07.80
21	Sebastian HERMANS	03.05.83
19	Rune LANGE (Nor)	24.06.77
11	Sandy MARTENS	23.12.72
18	Andres MENDOZA (Per)	26.04.78
10	Bratislav RISTIC (Yug)	21.01.80
33	Bengt SAETERNES (Nor)	01.01.75
24	Tim SMOLDERS	26.08.80

COACH

Trond SOLLIED (Nor)

B LIST

27	Karel GERAERTS (D)	05.01.82
31	Kevin ROELANDTS (M)	27.08.82

DEPORTIVO LA CORUNA

GOALKEEPERS

25	JUANMI Garcia	09.03.71
1	Jose MOLINA	08.08.70
13	Dani MALLO	25.01.79

DEFENDERS

15	Joan CAPDEVILA	03.02.78
5	CESAR Martin	03.04.77
17	Goran DJOROVIC (Yug)	11.11.71
20	DONATO Gama (Bra)	30.12.62
24	HECTOR Berenguel	11.10.74
14	JORGE ANDRADE (Por)	09.04.78
2	MANUEL PABLO Garcia	25.01.76
4	Nourredine NAYBET (Mor)	10.02.70
3	Enrique ROMERO	23.06.71
12	Lionel SCALONI (Uru)	16.05.78

MIDFIELDERS

22	Roberto ACUNA (Par)	25.03.72
11	Jose AMAVISCA	19.06.71
23	Aldo DUSCHER (Arg)	22.03.79
10	FRAN	14.07.69
6	MAURO SILVA (Bra)	12.01.68
16	SERGIO	10.11.76
21	Juan Carlos VALERON	17.06.75
18	VICTOR Sanchez	23.02.76

FORWARDS

9	DIEGO TRISTAN	05.01.76
19	LUQUE	11.03.78
7	Roy MAKAAY (Hol)	09.03.75

COACH

Javier IRURETA

B LIST

33	ANTONIO Lopez (D)	10.06.82
35	BORJA Carballo (M)	23.02.84
37	Alberto CANOSA (F)	12.12.82
31	DAVID YANEZ Lacorzana (G)	22.02.83
32	Francisco JAVIER Angeriz Lopez (D)	02.11.81
38	Xose Manuel PEPE (F)	06.01.84
34	Carlos PITA (M)	08.12.84
36	Emilio RECAMAN (F)	24.06.81

FEYENOORD

GOALKEEPERS

31	Carlo L'AMI	20.07.66
30	Patrick LODEWIJKS	21.02.67
1	Edwin ZOETEBIER	07.05.70

DEFENDERS

4	Pieter COLLEN (Blg)	20.06.80
20	Ferry DE HAAN	12.09.72
23	Brett EMERTON (Aus)	22.02.79
2	Christian GYAN (Gha)	02.11.78
3	Tomasz RZASA (Pol)	11.03.73
5	Ramon VAN HAAREN	16.09.72
8	Kees VAN WONDEREN	04.01.69

MIDFIELDERS

6	Paul BOSVELT	26.03.70
19	Thomas BUFFEL (Blg)	19.02.81
10	Anthony LURLING	22.04.77
14	Shinji ONO (Jap)	27.09.79
17	Patrick PAAUWE	27.12.75
25	Sebastian PARDO (Chl)	01.01.82
24	SONG Chong-gug (SKo)	20.02.79

FORWARDS

15	Mariano BOMBARDA (Arg)	10.09.72
7	Bonaventure KALOU (IvC)	12.01.78
18	LEONARDO dos Santos (Bra)	21.08.76
9	Pierre VAN HOOIDONK	29.11.69

COACH

Bert VAN MARWIJK

B LIST

11	LEONARDO Vitor Santiago (F, Bra)	09.03.83
27	Glenn LOOVENS (D)	22.09.83
16	Ebi SMOLAREK (F, Pol)	09.01.81
32	Ferne SNOYL (D)	08.03.85
28	Civard SPROCKEL (D)	10.05.83
22	Robin VAN PERSIE (F)	06.08.83

GALATASARAY

GOALKEEPERS

16	KEREM Inan	25.03.80
61	MEHMET Bolukbasi	24.08.78
1	Farid MONDRAGON (Col)	21.06.71

DEFENDERS

21	Sergio ALMAGUER (Mex)	16.05.69
3	BULENT Korkmaz	24.11.68
5	EMRE Asik	13.12.73
57	HAKAN Unsal	14.05.73
2	MEHMET Polat	08.06.78
20	Adana SARR (Sen)	23.12.83
23	VEDAT Inceefe	01.04.74

MIDFIELDERS

18	AYHAN Akman	23.02.77
4	Joao BATISTA (Bra)	04.03.75
19	CIHAN Haspolatli	04.01.80
67	ERGUN Penbe	17.05.72
10	FELIPE Jorge Loreiro (Bra)	02.09.77
8	SUAT Kaya	26.08.67
22	UMIT Davala	30.07.73

FORWARDS

6	ARIF Erdem	02.01.72
14	Elvir BALJIC (Bos)	08.07.74
7	BERKANT Goktan	12.12.80
25	CHRISTIAN (Bra)	23.04.75
17	FABIO Pinto (Bra)	09.10.80
11	HASAN Sas	01.08.76
9	UMIT Karan	01.10.76

COACH

Fatih TERIM

B LIST

	AHMET Dinctuk (G)	01.01.83
32	GORKEM Gork (D)	30.06.83
34	SABRI Sarioglu (M)	26.07.84
	SEDAT Debreli (M)	01.01.83

GENK

GOALKEEPERS

27	Logan BAILLY	27.12.85
1	Jan MOONS	26.09.70
26	Davy SCHOLLEN	28.02.78

DEFENDERS

16	Denis DASOUL	20.07.83
5	Wilfried DELBROEK	25.08.72
17	Hans LEENDERS	21.09.80
13	Akran ROUMANI (Mor)	01.04.78
3	Seyfo SOLEY (Gam)	16.02.80
19	Stefan TEELEN	10.04.79
2	Igor TOMASIC (Cro)	14.12.76
18	Kevin VANBEUREN	31.01.81
22	Justice WAMFOR (Cam)	05.08.81
4	Didier ZOKORA (IvC)	14.12.80

MIDFIELDERS

6	Mirsad BESLIJA (Bos)	06.07.79
23	Vincent EUVRARD	12.03.82
10	Josip SKOKO (Aus)	10.12.75
14	Bernd THUS	28.06.78
21	Rachid TIBARI	29.06.80

FORWARDS

9	Beli Moumouni DAGANO (BuF)	01.01.81
15	Igor DE CAMARGO (Bra)	12.05.83
8	Wesley SONCK	09.08.78
30	Takayuki SUZUKI (Jap)	05.06.76
11	Kevin VANDENBERGH	16.05.83

COACH

Sef VERGOOSSEN (Hol)

B LIST

12	Thomas CHATELLE (M)	31.03.81
24	Jeroen COPPENS (M)	12.05.82
20	Koen DAERDEN (M)	08.03.82
28	Sidi FARSSI (D)	30.12.81
25	Marco INGRAO (M)	26.07.82
29	Ben VANBRIEL (D)	19.03.82
31	Mike MAMPUYA (F)	17.01.83

INTERNAZIONALE

GOALKEEPERS

12	Alberto FONTANA	23.01.67
27	Mathieu MOREAU (Fra)	22.02.83
1	Francesco TOLDO	02.12.71

DEFENDERS

15	Daniele ADANI	10.07.74
13	Fabio CANNAVARO	13.09.73
77	Francesco COCO	08.01.77
2	Ivan CORDOBA (Col)	11.08.76
24	Carlos GAMARRA (Par)	17.02.71
23	Marco MATERAZZI	19.08.73
17	Michele SERENA	10.03.70
31	Nelson VIVAS (Arg)	18.10.69
4	Javier ZANETTI (Arg)	20.08.73

MIDFIELDERS

25	Matias ALMEYDA (Arg)	21.12.73
18	Stephane DALMAT (Fra)	16.02.79
14	Luigi DI BIAGIO	03.06.71
5	EMRE Belozoglu (Tur)	07.09.80
11	Andres GUGLIELMINPIETRO (Arg)	10.04.74
10	Domenico MORFEO	16.01.76
22	OKAN Buruk (Tur)	19.10.73
7	SERGIO CONCEICAO (Por)	15.11.74
6	Cristiano ZANETTI	10.04.77

FORWARDS

9	Hernan CRESPO (Arg)	05.07.75
3	Mohamed KALLON (SLe)	06.10.79
20	Alvaro RECOBA (Uru)	17.03.76
32	Christian VIERI	12.07.73

COACH

Hector CUPER (Arg)

B LIST

35	Mattia ALTOBELLI (F)	17.08.83
21	Nicola BEATI (M)	13.02.83
37	Fabrizio BIAVA (M)	25.08.89
38	Roberto CHIARIA (F)	25.08.83
39	Salvatore FERRARO (D)	09.06.83
40	Luca FRANCHINI (D)	31.12.83
41	Nicola NAPOLITANO (M)	22.01.83
26	Giovanni PASQUALE (D)	05.01.82
43	Mario REBECCHI (M)	31.08.83

JUVENTUS

GOALKEEPERS

1	Gianluigi BUFFON	28.01.78
12	Antonio CHIMENTI	30.06.70

DEFENDERS

15	Alessandro BIRINDELLI	12.11.74
2	Ciro FERRARA	11.02.67
6	Salvatore FRESI	18.01.73
13	Mark IULIANO	12.08.73
4	Paolo MONTERO (Uru)	03.09.71
24	Emiliano MORETTI	11.06.81
7	Gianluca PESSOTTO	11.08.70
21	Lilian THURAM (Fra)	01.01.72
5	Igor TUDOR (Cro)	16.04.78
14	Cristian ZENONI	23.04.77

MIDFIELDERS

20	Davide BAIOCCO	08.05.75
16	Mauro CAMORANESI (Arg)	04.10.76
8	Antonio CONTE	31.07.69
26	Edgar DAVIDS (Hol)	13.03.73
11	Pavel NEDVED (Cze)	30.08.72
23	Ruben OLIVERA (Uru)	04.05.83
3	Alessio TACCHINARDI	23.07.75
19	Gianluca ZAMBROTTA	19.02.77

FORWARDS

10	Alessandro DEL PIERO	09.11.74
18	Marco DI VAIO	15.07.76
9	Marcelo SALAS (Chl)	24.12.74
17	David TREZEGUET (Fra)	15.10.77
25	Marcelo ZALAYETA (Uru)	05.12.78

COACH

Marcello LIPPI

B LIST

33	Mattia CASSANI (D)	26.08.83
34	ELLIOT (M, Bra)	04.12.84
35	Simone FUMASOLI (M)	23.03.84
36	Alessandro GRANDO (D)	12.11.83
32	Antonio MIRANTE (G)	08.07.83
37	Matteo PARO (M)	17.03.83
38	Alex PEDERZOLI (M)	06.03.84
39	Luca SCICCHITANO (M)	17.09.84
40	Ivano SORRENTINO (F)	07.03.83
41	Orlando URBANO (D)	09.06.84

KYIV DYNAMO

GOALKEEPERS

12	Vitalii REVA	19.11.74
1	Olexandr SHOVKOVSKYI	02.01.75

DEFENDERS

24	Laszlo BODNAR	25.02.79
6	Yurii DMYTRULIN	10.02.75
32	Goran GAVRANCIC (Yug)	02.08.78
26	Andrii NESMACHNYI	28.02.79
22	Olexandr RADCHENKO	19.07.76
25	Goran SABLIC (Cro)	04.08.79

MIDFIELDERS

8	Valentin BIALKEVICH (Bls)	27.01.73
23	Tomas BRUSKO (Slk)	21.02.83
10	Florin CERNAT (Rom)	10.03.80
9	Badr EL KADDOURI (Mor)	31.01.81
17	Tiberiu GHIOANE (Rom)	18.06.81
14	Andrii HUSIN	11.12.72
18	Vasyl KARDASH	14.01.73
2	Aleksandr KHATSKEVICH (Bls)	19.10.73
36	Jerko LEKO (Cro)	09.04.80
11	Georgi PEEV (Bul)	11.03.79

FORWARDS

33	Oleksandr ALIYEV	03.02.85
15	DIOGO RINCON (Bra)	18.04.80
21	Lucky IDAKHOR (Nig)	30.08.80
19	LEANDRO (Bra)	22.03.76
7	Olexandr MELASCHENKO	13.12.78
16	Maksim SHATSKIKH (Uzb)	30.08.78
28	Dmytro VOROBEI	10.05.85

COACH

Olexiy MIKHAILICHENKO

B LIST

13	Rustam KHUDZHAMOV (G)	05.10.82
27	Olexandr LUCHUK (D)	23.08.84
29	Vitalii LYSYTSKYI (M)	16.04.82
30	Igor SKOBA (M)	21.05.82

LENS

GOALKEEPERS

16	Sebastien CHABBERT	15.05.78
30	Charles ITANDJE	02.11.82
1	Guillaume WARMUZ	22.05.70

DEFENDERS

6	Jacek BAK (Pol)	24.03.73
20	Zoumana CAMARA	03.04.79
14	Ferdinand COLY (Sen)	10.09.73
4	Adama COULIBALY (Mli)	09.10.80
23	Abdoulaye DIAGNE-FAYE (Sen)	26.02.78
24	Rod FANNI	06.12.81
17	Yoann LACHOR	17.01.76
26	Cyril ROOL	15.04.75
2	Eric SIKORA	04.02.68
3	Rigobert SONG (Cam)	01.07.76

MIDFIELDERS

5	Jocelyn BLANCHARD	28.05.72
29	Charles-Edouard CORIDON	09.04.73
19	Pape Bouba DIOP (Sen)	28.01.78
8	Seydou KEITA (Mli)	16.01.80
25	Abdelmajid OULMERS (Mor)	12.09.78
11	Stephane PEDRON	20.02.71
15	Pape SARR (Sen)	07.12.77
7	Antoine SIBIERSKI	05.08.74
18	Olivier THOMERT	28.05.80

FORWARDS

28	Dagui BAKARI	06.09.74
10	Daniel MOREIRA	08.08.77
21	John UTAKA (Nig)	08.01.82

COACH

Joel MULLER

B LIST

45	Thomas ALEXANDRE (D)	14.04.85
35	Stephane BESLE (D)	23.01.84
36	Guillaume CHERREAU (G)	20.06.83
37	Alexandro DE SOUZA Furtado (M, Bra)	07.04.83
38	Mounir DIANE (F, Mor)	16.05.82
39	Vincent ESCUDE-CANDAU (D)	26.03.85
27	Daouda JABI (M, Gui)	10.04.81
22	Yazid KAISSI (M)	16.05.81
40	Said KHITER (F)	19.01.85
41	Kouame Hermann KOUADIO (M, IvC)	31.12.85
42	Lesly Marguerite MALOUDA (M)	16.11.83
43	Ibrahima NDIAYE (F, Sen)	11.03.83
44	Guillaume PLESSIS (M)	16.01.85

LIVERPOOL

GOALKEEPERS

19	Pegguy ARPHEXAD (Fra)	18.05.73
1	Jerzy DUDEK (Pol)	23.03.73
22	Chris KIRKLAND	02.05.81
39	Patrice LUZI (Fra)	08.07.80

DEFENDERS

3	ABEL XAVIER (Por)	30.11.72
6	Markus BABBEL (Ger)	08.09.72
23	Jamie CARRAGHER	28.01.78
2	Stephane HENCHOZ (Swi)	07.09.74
4	Sami HYYPIA (Fin)	07.10.73
18	John Arne RIISE (Nor)	24.09.80
30	Djimi TRAORE (Fra)	01.03.80
27	Gregory VIGNAL (Fra)	19.07.81

MIDFIELDERS

15	Patrik BERGER (Cze)	10.11.73
25	Igor BISCAN (Cro)	04.05.78
28	Bruno CHEYROU (Fra)	10.05.78
21	Salif DIAO (Sen)	10.02.77
24	Bernard DIOMEDE (Fra)	23.01.74
17	Steven GERRARD	30.05.80
16	Dietmar HAMANN (Ger)	27.08.73
13	Danny MURPHY	18.03.77
7	Vladimir SMICER (Cze)	24.05.73

FORWARDS

5	Milan BAROS (Cze)	28.10.81
9	El Hadji DIOUF (Sen)	15.01.81
8	Emile HESKEY	11.01.78
10	Michael OWEN	14.12.79

COACH

Gerard HOULLIER (Fra)

B LIST

38	Michael FOLEY-SHERIDAN (M, Ire)	09.03.83
33	Neil MELLOR (F)	04.11.82
36	Jon OTSEMOBOR (D)	23.03.83
35	Stephen WARNOCK (D)	12.12.81
32	John WELSH (M)	10.01.84

LOKOMOTIV MOSCOW

GOALKEEPERS

32	Yevgeni ABRAMOV	18.06.82
22	Zaur KHAPOV	21.10.64
1	Sergei OVCHINNIKOV	10.11.70

DEFENDERS

3	Yuri DROZDOV	16.01.72
5	Sergei IGNASHEVICH	14.07.79
4	Jacob LEKGETHO (SAf)	24.03.74
2	Gennadi NIZHEGORODOV	07.06.77
14	Oleg PACHININ	12.09.74
17	Dmitri SENNIKOV	24.06.76

MIDFIELDERS

16	Vadim EVSEEV	08.01.76
11	JULIO CESAR (Bra)	26.02.80
10	Dmitry LOSKOV	12.02.74
8	Vladimir MAMINOV	04.09.74
21	Thabo MNGUNI (SAf)	18.03.74
18	Milan OBRADOVIC (Yug)	03.08.77
6	Narvik SIRKHAYEV (Aze)	16.03.74
19	Nemanja VUCICEVIC (Yug)	11.08.79

FORWARDS

55	Baba ADAMU (Gha)	20.10.79
15	Maksim BUZNIKIN	01.03.77
9	James OBIORAH (Nig)	24.08.78
46	Serguei OVTCHINNIKOV	07.12.84

COACH

Yuri SEMINE

B LIST

27	Andrey GOLOVKOV (M)	27.04.83
31	Alexandre IONOV (D)	29.03.83
7	Marat IZMAILOV (M)	21.09.82
34	Yuri KHOUSSIAINOV (M)	30.06.83
25	Ruslan PIMENOV (F)	25.11.81
26	Aleh POPEL (M, Bls)	01.01.83
35	Stepan REZNIK (D)	06.01.83
24	Yrvgeny ZINOVEV (F)	15.06.81

LYON

GOALKEEPERS

1	Gregory COUPET	31.12.72
30	Nicolas PUYDEBOIS	28.02.81
25	Remy VERCOUTRE	26.06.80

DEFENDERS

13	Jeremie BRECHET	14.08.79
5	Claudio CACAPA (Bra)	29.05.76
19	Jean-Marc CHANELET	23.07.68
2	Eric DEFLANDRE (Blg)	02.08.73
15	Christophe DELMOTTE	09.06.69
3	EDMILSON (Bra)	10.07.76
4	Florent LAVILLE	07.08.73
28	Laurent MONTOYA	28.09.80
20	Patrick MULLER (Swi)	17.12.76

MIDFIELDERS

23	Florent BALMONT	02.02.80
10	Eric CARRIERE	24.05.73
24	Vikash DHORASOO	10.10.73
7	Mahamadou DIARRA (Mli)	18.05.81
29	Yohan GOMEZ	25.09.81
8	JUNINHO Pernambucano (Bra)	30.01.75
6	Philippe VIOLEAU	19.08.70

FORWARDS

9	Sonny ANDERSON (Bra)	19.09.70
14	Sidney GOVOU	27.07.79
18	Pegguy LUYINDULA	25.05.79
21	Frederic NEE	18.04.75
11	Tony VAIRELLES	10.04.73

COACH

Paul LE GUEN

B LIST

40	Jamel ALIOUI (D)	02.06.82
32	Bryan BERGOUGNOUX (F)	12.01.83
38	Jeremy BERTHOD (D)	24.04.84
36	Alexis GENET (D)	09.06.82
42	Gael GENEVIER (D)	26.06.82
27	Alexandre HAUW (M)	22.01.82
39	Kevin JACMOT (M)	22.03.84
35	Steve LEGALLE (G)	01.06.83
31	Romain SARTRE (D)	12.11.82
37	Demba TOURE (F, Sen)	31.12.84
41	Johan TRUCHET (D)	16.08.83
34	Julien VIALE (F)	13.02.82

MACCABI HAIFA

GOALKEEPERS

22	Tom AL MADON	30.11.84
44	Dudu AWAT	17.10.77

DEFENDERS

15	Assaf ABRAHAMI	02.08.83
4	Arik BENADO	05.12.73
19	Eric EJIOFOR (Nig)	21.07.79
21	Camel GABARIN	02.06.81
3	Alon HARAZI	13.02.71
6	Adoram KEISI	17.06.72
23	Yossi NAGAR	22.08.82
16	Avishay ZANO	19.07.70

MIDFIELDERS

26	Eyal ALMOSHNINO	10.04.76
12	Liad AMIR	06.10.83
5	Walid BADIR	12.03.74
18	Cuillermo ISRAILEVICH	10.09.82
28	Nenad PRALIJA (Cro)	11.12.70
11	Giovani ROSSO (Cro)	17.11.72
2	Raimondas ZUTAUTAS (Lit)	04.09.72

FORWARDS

10	Yakubu AIYEGBENI (Nig)	22.11.82
9	Rafi COHEN	21.08.74
20	Yaniv KATAN	27.01.81
8	Nir SIVILIA	26.05.75
13	Michael ZANDBERG	16.04.80

COACH

Itzhak SHUM

B LIST

33	Omri ABADI (G)	14.11.84
27	Itshak BEN CHAMO (F)	29.12.84
24	Eshetu BIRUK (M)	15.06.84
25	Dekil KEINAN (D)	15.09.84
7	Eran LEVY (F)	04.08.85
30	Mohamad SHAHBARY (D)	07.03.84
29	Elad ZACHKO (F)	06.01.84

MANCHESTER UNITED

GOALKEEPERS

1	Fabien BARTHEZ (Fra)	28.06.71
13	Roy CARROLL (NI)	30.09.77
19	RICARDO Lopez (Spa)	30.12.71
44	Luke STEELE	24.09.84

DEFENDERS

5	Laurent BLANC (Fra)	19.11.65
24	Wes BROWN	13.10.79
6	Rio FERDINAND	07.11.78
14	David MAY	24.06.70
2	Gary NEVILLE	18.02.75
3	Philip NEVILLE	21.01.77
22	John O'SHEA (Ire)	30.04.81
34	Lee ROCHE	28.10.80
27	Mickael SILVESTRE (Fra)	09.08.77

MIDFIELDERS

7	David BECKHAM	02.05.75
8	Nicky BUTT	21.01.75
15	Luke CHADWICK	18.11.80
45	Christopher EAGLES	19.11.85
25	Quinton FORTUNE (SAf)	21.05.77
16	Roy KEANE (Ire)	10.08.71
18	Paul SCHOLES	16.11.74
4	Juan Sebastian VERON (Arg)	09.03.75

FORWARDS

21	Diego FORLAN (Uru)	19.05.79
11	Ryan GIGGS (Wal)	29.11.73
20	Ole Gunnar SOLSKJAER (Nor)	26.02.73
10	Ruud VAN NISTELROOY (Hol)	01.07.76

COACH

Alex FERGUSON (Sco)

B LIST

36	James DAVIS (F)	06.02.82
23	Bojan DJORDJIC (M, Swe)	06.02.82
31	Darren FLETCHER (M, Sco)	01.02.84
38	Mark LYNCH (D)	02.09.81
40	Daniel NARDIELLO (F)	22.10.82
26	Daniel PUGH (D)	19.10.82
42	Kieran RICHARDSON (M)	21.10.84
17	Michael STEWART (M, Sco)	26.02.81
41	Alan TATE (D)	02.09.82
39	Paul TIERNEY (D, Ire)	15.09.82
43	Mads TIMM (M, Den)	31.10.84
37	Danny WEBBER	27.08.82
30	Ben WILLIAMS	27.08.82

MILAN

GOALKEEPERS

18	Christian ABBIATI	08.07.77
12	DIDA (Bra)	07.10.73
1	Valerio FIORI	27.04.69

DEFENDERS

16	Jose CHAMOT (Arg)	17.05.69
19	Alessandro COSTACURTA	24.04.66
2	Thomas HELVEG (Den)	24.06.71
4	Kakha KALADZE (Geo)	27.02.78
24	Martin LAURSEN (Den)	26.07.77
3	Paolo MALDINI	26.06.68
13	Alessandro NESTA	19.03.76
25	ROQUE JUNIOR (Bra)	31.08.76
14	Dario SIMIC (Cro)	12.11.75

MIDFIELDERS

23	Massimo AMBROSINI	29.05.77
28	Sam DALLA BONA	06.02.81
8	Gennaro GATTUSO	09.01.78
21	Andrea PIRLO	19.05.79
10	RUI COSTA (Por)	29.03.72
20	Clarence SEEDORF (Hol)	01.04.76
27	SERGINHO (Bra)	27.06.71

FORWARDS

30	Carlo BORRIELLO	18.06.82
9	Filippo INZAGHI	09.08.73
11	RIVALDO (Bra)	19.04.72
7	Andrii SHEVCHENKO (Ukr)	29.09.76
15	Jon Dahl TOMASSON (Den)	29.08.76

COACH

Carlo ANCELOTTI

B LIST

83	Catilina AUBAMEYANG (M)	01.09.83
35	Simone BRUNELLI (G)	30.06.83
34	Alessandro PARRAVICINI (M)	17.05.84
36	Stefano PASTRELLO (M)	01.01.84

MOSCOW SPARTAK

GOALKEEPERS

12	Anton ALEKSYEYEV (Ukr)	31.03.84
45	Stanislav CHERCHESOV	02.09.63
1	Maxym LEVYTSKYI (Ukr)	26.11.72

DEFENDERS

44	Valeri ABRAMIDZE (Geo)	17.01.80
3	Baye KEBE (Sen)	29.12.78
55	Dmitri KHLESTOV	21.01.71
2	Yuri KOVTUN	05.01.70
29	Igor MITRESKI (Mac)	19.02.79
34	MOISES Moura Pineiro (Bra)	25.07.79
48	Samuel OGUNSANYA (Nig)	01.03.80
18	Dmytro PARFYONOV (Ukr)	11.09.74
4	Jerry TCHUISSE (Cam)	13.01.75

MIDFIELDERS

7	Vasili BARANOV (Bls)	05.10.72
21	Artem BEZRODNY	10.02.79
14	Maxim KALINICHENKO (Ukr)	26.01.79
13	Dmitri KUDRIASHOV	13.05.83
8	MARCELO Jose Da Silva (Bra)	25.05.76
51	Robert SCARLETT (Jam)	14.01.79
9	Yegor TITOV	29.05.76

FORWARDS

11	Vladimir BESCHASTNYKH	01.04.74
20	Aleksandr DANISHEVSKI	23.02.84
42	Okon ESSIEN (Nig)	31.12.81
30	Alexander SONIN	06.08.83
19	Dmitri SYCHEV	26.10.83

COACH

Oleg ROMANTSEV

B LIST

25	Olexandr PAVLENKO (M)	20.01.85

NEWCASTLE UNITED

GOALKEEPERS

1	Shay GIVEN (Ire)	20.04.76
13	Stephen HARPER	14.03.75
29	John KARELSE (Hol)	17.05.70

DEFENDERS

35	Olivier BERNARD (Fra)	14.10.79
19	Titus BRAMBLE	31.07.81
30	Stephen CALDWELL (Sco)	12.09.80
34	Nikos DABIZAS (Gre)	03.08.73
3	Robbie ELLIOTT	25.12.73
12	Andy GRIFFIN	17.03.79
18	Aaron HUGHES (NI)	08.11.79
5	Andy O'BRIEN (Ire)	29.06.79
14	Wayne QUINN	19.11.76

MIDFIELDERS

6	Clarence ACUNA (Chl)	08.02.75
17	Christian BASSEDAS (Arg)	16.02.73
8	Kieron DYER	29.12.78
45	HUGO VIANA (Por)	15.01.83
7	Jermaine JENAS	18.02.83
22	Jamie McCLEN	13.05.79
32	Laurent ROBERT (Fra)	21.05.75
4	Nolberto SOLANO (Per)	12.12.74
11	Gary SPEED (Wal)	08.09.69

FORWARDS

10	Craig BELLAMY (Wal)	13.07.79
16	Carl CORT	01.11.77
20	Lomana LUA LUA (DRC)	28.12.80
9	Alan SHEARER	13.08.70

COACH

Bobby ROBSON

B LIST

23	Shola AMEOBI (F)	12.10.81
57	Carl BELL (G)	19.10.83
58	Stephan BRENNAN (D, Ire)	26.03.83
59	Martin BRITTAIN (D)	29.12.84
60	Christopher CARR (D)	14.12.84
28	Michael CHOPRA (D)	23.12.83
33	Adam COLLIN (G)	09.12.84
61	Paul DUNN (D)	10.11.82
62	Andrew FERRELL (D)	09.01.84
63	Matthew GARDNER (M)	15.02.85
64	Kristopher GATE (M)	01.01.85
65	Lewis GUY (M)	22.08.85
66	Ryan HOGG (D)	20.11.82
67	Joesph KENDRICK (D, Ire)	26.06.83
25	Brian KERR (M, Sco)	12.10.81
68	Aaron LABONTE (D)	27.11.83
69	Neale McDERMOTT (M)	08.03.85
70	James MOORE (M)	17.01.84
71	Lee NORTON (D)	01.08.84
55	Richard OFFIONG (F)	17.12.83
56	Bradley ORR (M)	01.11.82
72	Peter RAMAGE (D)	22.11.83
73	Damon ROBSON (M)	19.09.83

OLYMPIAKOS

GOALKEEPERS

31	Dimitris ELEFTHEROPOULOS	07.08.76
51	Angelos GEORGIOU	27.08.74
22	Theofanis KATERGIANAKIS	16.02.74

DEFENDERS

5	Giorgos AMANATIDIS	04.04.70
32	Giorgos ANATOLAKIS	16.03.74
18	Paraskevas ANTZAS	18.08.76
4	Jorge BERMUDEZ (Col)	18.06.71
15	EDU DRACENA (Bra)	18.05.81
23	Christos KONTIS	13.05.75
19	Thanassis KOSTOULAS	24.03.76
14	Dimitris MAVROGENIDIS	23.12.76
2	Christos PATSATZOGLOU	19.03.79
3	Stelios VENETIDIS	19.11.76

MIDFIELDERS

16	Nery CASTILLO (Uru)	13.06.84
11	Predrag DJORDJEVIC (Yug)	04.08.72
7	Stylianos GIANNAKOPOULOS	12.07.74
8	Christian KAREMBEU (Fra)	03.12.70
21	Andreas NINIADIS	18.02.71
13	ZE ELIAS (Bra)	25.09.76
20	Par ZETTERBERG (Swe)	14.10.70

FORWARDS

30	Alexis ALEXANDRIS	21.10.68
99	Gabriel ALVEZ (Uru)	26.12.74
9	Lambros CHOUTOS	07.12.79
10	GIOVANNI (Bra)	04.02.72
17	Peter OFORI-QUAYE (Gha)	21.03.80

COACH

Yiannis KOLLIAS

B LIST

28	Dimitrios BENETATOS (F)	22.03.83
29	Georgios DOVAS (F)	02.11.83
34	Kleopas GIANNOU (G)	04.05.82
25	Emmanouel LYGKOS (F)	16.04.84
26	Anastasios LYKOUDIS (D)	10.02.83
27	Konstantinos MENDRINOS (F)	28.05.85
33	Christos TZANETAKIS (D)	11.09.83

PSV EINDHOVEN

GOALKEEPERS

20	Gino COUTINHO	05.08.82
1	Jelle TEN ROUWELAAR	24.12.80
23	Ronald WATERREUS	25.08.70

DEFENDERS

18	Eric ADDO (Gha)	12.11.78
30	Kasper BOGELUND (Den)	08.10.80
34	EDNO Roberto Cunha (Bra)	31.05.83
4	Ernest FABER	27.08.71
5	Jan HEINTZE (Den)	17.08.63
3	Kevin HOFLAND	07.06.79
27	Michael LAMEY	29.11.79
2	Andre OOUER	11.07.74

MIDFIELDERS

22	Wilfred BOUMA	15.06.78
25	John DE JONG	08.03.77
17	Georgi GAKHOKIDZE (Geo)	05.11.75
26	LEANDRO (Bra)	08.01.84
16	Theo LUCIUS	19.12.76
11	Arjen ROBBEN	23.01.84
19	Dennis ROMMEDAHL (Den)	22.07.78
6	Mark VAN BOMMEL	22.04.77
13	Remco VAN DER SCHAAF	28.02.79
14	Johann VOGEL (Swi)	08.03.77
15	Lindsay WILSON (Aus)	04.05.79

FORWARDS

10	Arnold BRUGGINK	24.07.77
9	Mateja KEZMAN (Yug)	12.04.79
7	Adil RAMZI (Mor)	14.07.77
8	Jan VENNEGOOR OF HESSELINK	07.11.78

COACH

Guus HIDDINK

B LIST

36	Mohammed CHAMLAL (M, Tur)	25.04.82
32	EDSON Silva (F, IvC)	03.09.83
37	Ayhan EVREN (M, Tur)	13.02.82
38	Jay GIBBES (D)	30.10.81
46	Admir HAZNADAR (F)	25.07.85
28	Klaas HUNTELAAR (F)	12.08.83
39	Nico LEUSTEN (D)	01.05.82
41	John SCHOT (M)	07.02.84
42	Jasar TAKAK (M)	04.03.82
35	Robert VAN BOXEL (D)	20.01.83
40	Dirk VAN OSCH (D)	16.01.83
43	Paul VERHAEGH (M)	01.09.83
44	Nick VERMEIREN (G)	20.07.82
45	Jan WUYTENS (D, Blg)	09.06.85

REAL MADRID

GOALKEEPERS

1	Iker CASILLAS	20.05.81
13	CESAR	02.09.71
25	Carlos SANCHEZ	19.01.78

DEFENDERS

4	Fernando HIERRO	23.03.68
6	IVAN HELGUERA	28.03.75
2	MICHEL SALGADO	22.10.75
17	Oscar MINAMBRES	01.02.81
22	Francisco PAVON	09.01.80
15	RAUL BRAVO	14.04.81
3	ROBERTO CARLOS (Bra)	10.04.73

MIDFIELDERS

19	Esteban CAMBIASSO (Arg)	18.08.80
20	Albert CELADES	29.09.75
10	Luis FIGO (Por)	04.11.72
16	FLAVIO CONCEICAO (Bra)	12.06.74
24	Claude MAKELELE (Fra)	18.02.73
8	Steve McMANAMAN (Eng)	11.02.72
21	Santiago SOLARI (Arg)	07.10.76
5	Zinedine ZIDANE (Fra)	23.06.72

FORWARDS

14	GUTI	31.10.76
9	Fernando MORIENTES	05.04.76
18	Javier PORTILLO	30.03.82
7	RAUL Gonzalez	27.06.77
11	RONALDO (Bra)	22.09.76
12	TOTE	23.11.78

COACH

Vicente DEL BOSQUE

B LIST

35	ANGELO (D)	07.03.83
32	BORJA Fernandez (M)	14.01.81
28	Jose Luis CABRERA (M)	10.05.82
30	Jordi CODINA (G)	27.04.82
31	Enrique CORRALES (D)	01.03.82
36	Juan Carlos DUQUE (D)	26.01.82
33	LUIS GARCIA Fernandez (F)	06.02.81
29	RUBEN Gonzalez (D)	29.01.82
34	VALDO (F)	23.04.81

ROMA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Francesco ANTONIOLI	14.09.69
22	Ivan PELIZZOLI	18.11.80

DEFENDERS

6	ALDAIR (Bra)	30.11.65
2	CAFU (Bra)	07.06.70
32	Vincent CANDELA (Fra)	24.10.73
13	Leandro CUFRE (Arg)	09.05.78
31	Traianos DELLAS (Gre)	31.01.76
23	Christian PANUCCI	12.04.73
19	Walter SAMUEL (Arg)	22.03.78
4	Luigi SARTOR	30.01.75
29	Giuseppe SCURTO	05.01.84
5	Jonathan ZEBINA (Fra)	19.07.78

MIDFIELDERS

11	EMERSON Ferreira (Bra)	04.04.76
7	Diego FUSER	11.11.68
28	Josep GUARDIOLA (Spa)	18.01.71
25	Gianni GUIGOU (Uru)	22.02.75
8	Francisco LIMA (Bra)	17.04.71
14	Ivan TOMIC (Yug)	05.01.76
17	Damiano TOMMASI	17.05.74

FORWARDS

33	Gabriel BATISTUTA (Arg)	01.02.69
20	Davide BOMBARDINI	21.06.74
18	Antonio CASSANO	12.07.82
24	Marco DELVECCHIO	07.04.73
9	Vincenzo MONTELLA	18.06.74
10	Francesco TOTTI	27.09.76

COACH

Fabio CAPELLO

B LIST

21	Alberto AQUILANI (M)	07.07.84
27	Daniele DE ROSSI (M)	24.07.83
26	Damiano FERRONETTI (D)	01.11.84
34	Marco PAOLONI (G)	21.02.84
12	Carlo ZOTTI (G)	03.09.82

ROSENBORG

GOALKEEPERS

12	Arni ARASON (Ice)	07.05.75
26	Alexander HANSEN	06.10.82
1	Espen JOHNSEN	20.12.79

DEFENDERS

5	Christer BASMA	01.08.72
14	Lars BLIXT	08.10.76
3	Erik HOFTUN	03.03.69
20	Azar KARADAS	09.08.81
13	Janne SAARINEN (Fin)	28.02.77
16	Jarle STEINSLAND	10.07.80
21	Stale STENSAAS	07.07.71

MIDFIELDERS

7	Orjan BERG	20.08.68
2	Odd OLSEN	28.12.69
11	MacBeth SIBAYA (SAf)	25.11.77
10	Bent SKAMMELSRUD	18.05.66
15	Mads SKJAERVOLD	03.01.80
6	Roar STRAND	02.02.70

FORWARDS

22	Harald BRATTBAKK	01.02.71
8	Dagfinn ENERLY	09.12.72
18	Christer GEORGE	11.08.79
23	Dag HORNSETH	01.02.82
9	Frode JOHNSEN	17.03.74
19	Trond LUDVIGSEN	22.06.82

COACH

Nils Arne EGGEN

B LIST

17	Joachim ERIKSEN (D)	16.06.82
24	Martin HOYEM (D)	16.01.82
25	Are TRONSETH (D)	03.09.81

VALENCIA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Santiago CANIZARES	18.12.69
13	Andres PALOP	22.10.73

DEFENDERS

4	Roberto AYALA (Arg)	14.04.73
15	Amedeo CARBONI (Ita)	06.04.65
23	CURRO TORRES	27.12.76
5	Miroslav DJUKIC (Yug)	19.02.66
3	FABIO AURELIO (Bra)	24.09.79
24	Javier GARRIDO	01.07.79
12	Carlos MARCHENA	31.07.79
30	David NAVARRO	25.05.80
2	Mauricio PELLEGRINO (Arg)	05.10.71

MIDFIELDERS

21	Pablo AIMAR (Arg)	03.11.79
6	David ALBELDA	01.09.77
10	Miguel ANGULO	23.06.77
8	Ruben BARAJA	11.07.75
22	Gonzalo DE LOS SANTOS (Uru)	19.07.76
18	Cristian KILY GONZALEZ (Arg)	04.08.74
19	Francisco RUFETE	20.11.76
16	Denis SERBAN (Rom)	05.01.76
14	VICENTE Rodriguez	16.07.81

FORWARDS

17	Diego ALONSO (Uru)	16.04.75
7	John CAREW (Nor)	05.09.79
11	JUAN SANCHEZ	15.05.72
20	MISTA	12.11.78
9	SALVA Ballesta	22.05.75

COACH

Rafael BENITEZ

B LIST

31	Miguel ALBIOL (M)	02.09.81
32	David SANCHEZ (M)	29.01.81

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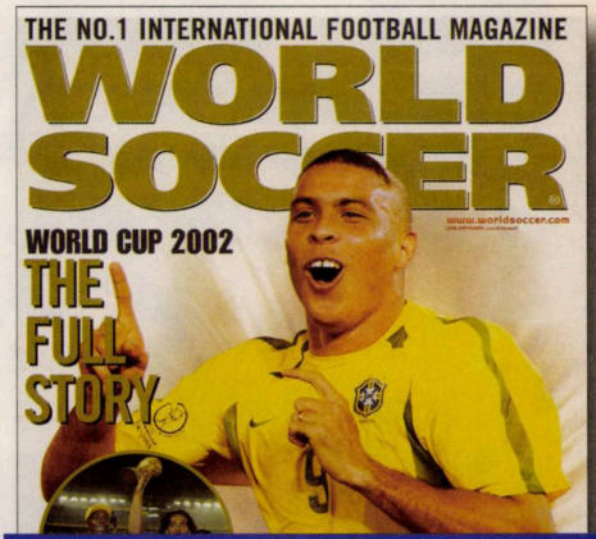

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Instant impact...the goals of recent signing Nihat Kahveci have helped put Real Sociedad at the head of the table

Sociedad on top

Keir Radnedge reports on the surprise leaders of La Liga

THE Real revolution that is galvanising La Liga is not the high-spending confusion in Madrid but the low-cost regeneration at Real Sociedad, who edged to the top of the table in mid-October, duly extended their lead and are determined to tough it out as long as they can.

It helps, of course, that all eyes have been everywhere but on San Sebastian. In Madrid all the focus has been on the European champions' erratic form as well as the top-table return of Atletico Madrid. In Barcelona it's all been about growing supporter discontent at the mixed results produced by the second coming of Louis Van Gaal, while Seville fans have been taken up with the fan violence surrounding their city derby (Sevilla had the Pizjuan stadium shut for four games after a riot-scarred clash with Betis).

Deportivo La Coruna lost their way as did Celta Vigo after a bright start. Indeed, only champions Valencia have looked consistently good enough to chase Sociedad down and they will have focus and physique tested by their Champions League run.

At international level, Spain maintained their Euro 2004 progress with a comfortable 3-0 win over Northern Ireland, then looked utterly uninterested in a 0-0 friendly draw with Paraguay. A more interesting sideshow was the prospect raised of whether the national team will, in 2004, play their first match in the Basque provinces (most likely venue, Vitoria) for the first time in what would be 37 years.

On the European club front, Barcelona, Valencia and Madrid had comparatively few problems in qualifying for the second group phase of the Champions League. However, Deportivo were left with a last-round decider to resolve whether their European interest continued in Champions League or UEFA Cup.

Amid all that, Real Sociedad's revival had yet to gather the acclaim it deserved. This time last season the club were worried only about the prospects of relegation, which were eventually dispelled, though only after the removal of manager John Toshack. In the end Sociedad finished seven points clear of the drop zone but complacency was not an option and in came Russian midfielder Valeri Karpin, Turkish forward Nihat Kahveci and veteran Yugoslav striker Darko Kovacevic.

The most important signing, however, may have been Frenchman Raynald Denoueix as new boss – a wise choice. Denoueix had been youth coach at Nantes, then championship-winning manager of the seniors. He was dismissed when reality cut in last season and Nantes, despite some bright displays in the Champions League, bounced along at the foot of the French table.

Denoueix could have gone back into the French club's noted youth centre but the prospect of taking over Sociedad was too tempting. This was a milieu in which the coach knew he would feel at home, a provincial club who had to rely heavily on their own resources. But even he thought results would take longer to achieve.

Sociedad edged clear at the top in mid-October – for the first time in 21 seasons – by drawing 2-2 away to Alaves with goals from Nihat and Karpin. A 2-1 home win over Santander (Kovacevic and Javier De Pedro, penalty) took them three points clear of Valencia – a lead they maintained by winning 1-0 away to Villarreal (Nihat). Sociedad thus remained the only unbeaten team in the League.

"Very satisfying indeed," said Denoueix. "That was our best performance away from home this season and proves we are on the right lines."

Valencia stayed second after beating struggling Espanyol 1-0 with a late free-kick from Fabio Aurelio. Mallorca owed a 3-1 win over Valladolid to a Walter Pandiani hat-trick and took over third place from slithering Celta, who lost 2-1 in Bilbao. A first home win in eight months probably saved German coach Jupp Heynckes from a mess largely of his own outspoken making. Joseba Etxeberria and Ismael Urzaiz earned a comeback victory after Celta had taken a first-half lead through Brazilian Edu.

Madrid sat down in sixth at the turn of the month after a goalless draw in a paddy field in La Coruna. Deportivo remained seventh, with Barcelona tucked in behind them both in eighth spot after scrambling a 1-1 draw away to Santander. Madrid had already come unstuck away to Racing. They lost 2-0 in a match etched with bad feeling over Santander's decision to play winger Pedro Munitis. He was on loan from Madrid but Santander had somehow omitted to sign the contract appendix agreeing not to play him against Madrid. Not only did he play but he scored the second goal – to Madrid coach Vicente Del Bosque's irritation. "I couldn't score a goal against Madrid in those circumstances," said Del Bosque, thus revealing for once that perhaps even he was starting to feel the pressure.

Goal of the season is probably already decided: it was scored by Espanyol's Brazilian midfielder Roger Garcia against relegation-bound Recreativo. Roger emulated Pele, circa World Cup 1970, by lofting the ball home from just inside his own half in a 2-0 win.

Finally, Deportivo are having to withstand far more than the usual footballing upsets. To lose a key player such as Juan Carlos Valeron with a broken leg can happen to any club. A far more serious blow to morale came when international keeper Jose Molina announced he was retiring "temporarily" for cancer treatment. Molina underwent surgery and chemotherapy for testicular cancer 18 months ago. Now traces of the cancer have returned and he must undergo further treatment. Messages of sympathy and support poured in as, for once, all those bitter rivalries were laid aside.

Trap hangs on

...but Eriksson is keen to return to Italy. Paddy Agnew reports

FROM Ahn Jung-hwan to Craig Bellamy, the story goes from bad to worse. We had left Italy with the humiliation of a mid-summer World Cup exit at the hands of hosts South Korea. We find them again in mid-autumn being played off the park by Wales in a Euro 2004 qualifier.

Italy's deserved 2-1 defeat at the Millennium stadium in Cardiff sent the national team to a new low. In 10 games played since a 2-1 friendly win against England in Leeds on March 27, they collected no fewer than five defeats (Czech Republic and Slovenia in friendlies, Croatia and South Korea at the World Cup and now Wales).

Giovanni Trapattoni's side have manifestly failed to recover from the trauma of that World Cup exit, first losing to Slovenia in an August friendly, then struggling away to little Azerbaijan in a 2-0 Euro qualifying win in September, and finally struggling even more in a 1-1 qualifying draw in Naples with Yugoslavia four days before the Cardiff debacle.

Something, probably relations between Trapattoni and his squad, appears to have suffered irreparable damage in Korea. Put simply, the players do not want to play for him any more. Hints of strains between the coach and some of his big-name stars came during the summer when Internazionale's Christian Vieri and Juventus' Alessandro Del Piero both issued negative comments about Italy's tactics at the World Cup.

Vieri ruled himself out of both the Yugoslavia and Wales qualifiers, yet was back in the Inter side three days after the Cardiff defeat, scoring an added-time equaliser in a tempestuous 1-1 draw with Juventus. Not surprisingly, more than one commentator speculated about the seriousness of the injury that had kept Vieri out of the national team.

In the immediate aftermath of defeat, Trapattoni could indeed point to his injury-enforced absentees, such as Vieri, Francesco Totti, Gianluca Pessotto, Francesco Coco, Filippo Inzaghi and Marco Delvecchio. Furthermore, two key figures of the recent past, namely Paolo Maldini and Demetrio Albertini, have both exited the international scene.

But most critics felt Trapattoni had pulled off Italy's best player on the night and the only one capable of righting the listing Italian ship, namely Gigi Di Biagio, in order to make way for Gennaro Gattuso. The fact that Gattuso lasted only 20 minutes before being substituted himself convinced many that old Trap had lost the plot entirely.

It was no surprise then to find front-page, morning-after headlines such as "Trap Addio" (Farewell Trapattoni) from *Corriere Dello Sport*, the paper that had greeted the grim draw with Yugoslavia with: "That's Enough of Trap, On With Zoff."

On the morning after Cardiff, it seemed only a matter of days before Trapattoni would be sacked. Yet he remains at his post. The reality, for the time being, is that an alternative, ready, willing and, above all, immediately available candidate cannot be found. The logical choice would have been Trapattoni's predecessor, Dino Zoff, who took Italy to within 20 seconds of winning Euro 2000. Yet his candidacy has apparently been blocked by some of Italy's top clubs (Juve in particular) and by federation officials, feeling he would simply be a step back into the past.

The federation's wish-list begins with Fabio Capello of Roma and Marcello Lippi of Juventus. Yet both are fully committed to their clubs.

With Zoff, Capello and Lippi all ruled out, speculation developed into a guessing game involving a veritable who's who of Italian (and foreign) coaches. The candidacies of current Under-21 coach Claudio Gentile, former Under-21 and Inter coach Marco Tardelli, ex-Chelsea and Watford coach Gianluca Vialli, former Milan and Lazio coach Alberto Zaccheroni, not to mention Brazil's World Cup-winning coach Luiz Felipe Scolari and Chievo coach Gigi Del Neri, were all floated only to be sunk out of sight.

Gentile, Del Neri and Vialli were dismissed because of their relative lack of international experience, while the most recent results obtained by both Zaccheroni (at Lazio) and Tardelli (at Inter) hardly boded well. Scolari did a good job talking his way into contention, via a series of interviews with Italian media, but he too was dismissed because of his lack of experience in Italy.

All of which left the federation in a state of indecision, made all the more uncertain when word filtered through on the grapevine that Sven Goran Eriksson might like to return to Italian football. After Eriksson made a weekend visit to Rome early in November, speculation was rife that he wanted out of England (largely to get away from the intrusive tabloid press).

Losing the plot?...Trapattoni certainly seems to have lost the confidence of his players

The speculation was well-founded because *World Soccer* has since learned that during his Roman weekend Eriksson left friends and acquaintances in no doubt that he would be more than willing to return to Italy, sooner or later.

As for the League scene, suffice to say that Inter continued to lead, to play badly and to get results, while Milan dazzled, Juventus toiled and, surprisingly, Roma and Lazio provided the best game of the season so far with an enthralling 2-2 derby draw.

Torino's Giancarlo Camolese became the first Serie A coaching casualty of the season when he was sacked in late October, being replaced by former Bologna and Parma coach Renzo Ulivieri.

But Camolese was not the only coach to lose his job last month. Pietro Vierchowod, coach to Florentia Viola, the born-again Fiorentina playing in the Fourth Division, also got his marching orders after less than satisfactory results. His replacement is ex-Lecce coach Alberto Cavasin.

The managerial swings and roundabouts, be they at international or League level, are just beginning to gather pace.

Bayern make most painful exit

Nick Bidwell examines the reasons for the Bavarians' Champions League debacle

DESPITE a scrapbook of clippings from a number of autumnal calamities in European competition – first round defeat by Saint-Etienne in 1969, a 6-3 aggregate UEFA Cup loss to little B1903 Copenhagen in 1991-92, and an embarrassing defeat by unfancied Norwich City in the same competition two years later – Bayern Munich's early exit from this term's Champions League arguably stands as the most painful experience of them all.

Just one point from five games, including home and away losses to Milan and Deportivo La Coruna, was a meagre return for a club of Bayern's standing. After finishing last in their group, the once all-powerful Bavarians could not even console themselves with a 'lucky loser' spot in the UEFA Cup.

"What we have gone through is not just disappointing, it's scandalous, it's a disgrace for Bayern Munich," roared vice-president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge after the 2-1 defeat in La Coruna that sealed his club's fate. "This nightmare is doubly painful. Alongside the damage to our image, it blows an almighty hole in our finances [thought to be in the region of £10 million] which we will have to plug. It's a black day for us."

So where did it all go wrong? Some might say it was simply Bayern's bad luck to be placed in the 'Group of Death' alongside Milan and Depor. But that does not explain their sub-standard performances, their casual approach, lack of ideas and general listlessness. In truth, they had become too sure of themselves.

Sorely missed...Mehmet Scholl has spent too much time on the treatment table

Rummenigge himself stoked the fires of complacency this summer with his assertion that the current Bayern squad was the strongest in the club's history, while gushing press descriptions of early-season Bayern victories over moderate Bundesliga opponents as "The Ballet in White" bloated egos just as effectively. Bayern's competitive edge was blunted as they sought to live up to the hype of 'Champagne Football'. Playing to the gallery took precedence over running a tight, well-organised ship.

"We lost our yearning for results," rightly declared midfielder Mehmet Scholl. Apart from vociferous keeper and skipper Oliver Kahn, Bayern clearly also lacked leadership on the pitch, the sort of hands-on player who can rally, organise and inspire. Although Michael Ballack is the undisputed Bayern superstar, an attacking midfielder of the highest order, he is not one to play Braveheart. It is not in his nature.

"At the moment, there is an authority problem within the team," says ex-Bayern midfielder Thomas Strunz. "There are no dominant personalities like Lothar Matthaus, Jurgen Klinsmann and Stefan Effenberg, who had great experience and a history as winners."

Former Bayern coach Udo Lattek agrees, saying: "Where are the world-class players, the likes of Beckenbauer, Breitner, Muller and Hoeness from the 1970s side? Now you have to look with a microscope to find the dominant players."

Even though certain Bayern players persist in attributing their Champions League failure to bad luck (Kahn: "In both games against Milan, we played better than our opponents, but ended up losing"), the harsh truth is that there were problems in almost all areas.

Central defenders Robert Kovac, Sammy Kuffour and Thomas Linke were regularly caught napping, while with injury-prone Scholl still the physio's best friend, Bayern were severely handicapped by the lack of a true playmaker. Whatever some might say, Ballack has never been a midfield general. In Bayern's attacking third, the only real plus this season has been the way Ballack has settled in since his summer move from Leverkusen.

Another recruit from Leverkusen – Brazilian midfielder Ze Roberto – has so far proved a huge disappointment, while Peruvian forward Claudio Pizarro has plenty of goalscoring bite in the Bundesliga but finds top European club markers much more indigestible. As for chief marksman, Giovane Elber, only he knows why he has acquired the habit of fading from view on away grounds.

Coach Ottmar Hitzfeld finds himself in uncharted waters. Before this season, he had never once failed to at least make the quarter-finals of the Champions League with Bayern. Now he is being used for media target practice, with adversaries claiming he has lost the dressing-room.

"There must be a radical restructuring," said ex-skipper Paul Breitner. "And the position of coach must be the first to be discussed."

As one might have expected, Franz Beckenbauer publicly backed Hitzfeld, who, in turn, gave short shrift to resignation whispers ("I'm a fighter. I don't only do this job when the sun is shining").

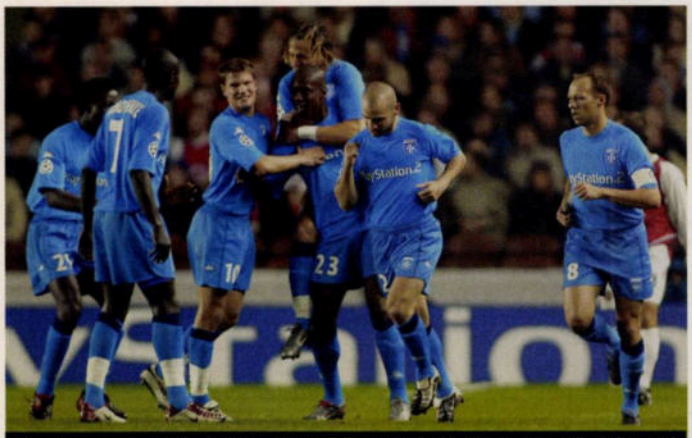
However, many German sports writers feel there will be a new man in charge next season. Who? Take your pick from Fabio Capello, Guus Hiddink, Dino Zoff, Louis Van Gaal, Matthias Sammer or Klaus Toppmoller.

To compensate for the lack of Champions League income, Bayern are bound to drastically prune their playing staff. For-sale boards are already in the front gardens of defender Pablo Thiam and midfielders Thorsten Fink and Niko Kovac. They could be joined by striker Alexander Zickler and stopper Thomas Linke.

Still, there's always someone worse off, and those unfortunates have to be erstwhile first-choice Energie Cottbus midfielders Vasile Miriuta and Bruno Akrapovic, declared surplus to requirements after only a third of the season.

Cottbus general manager Klaus Stabach, whose side were rock bottom of the Bundesliga after 11 rounds, said: "[Hungarian] Miriuta is 34, [Bosnian] Akrapovic is 35. We want to build for the future with a younger team."

How times change. Miriuta was one of the best playmakers in the Bundesliga as Cottbus staved off relegation in each of the past two seasons. Will they manage to avoid the drop without him?



Team spirit...Auxerre players surround Kapo (23) after his goal against Arsenal

Show of strength

NO French team is likely to win the Champions League in the immediate future, but French football has surely proved its resilience in this season's competition. Auxerre's gallant win at Arsenal was surpassed by Lyon's victory over Inter at San Siro. Lens' 3-1 home conquest of Deportivo La Coruna was another terrific success; another tribute to the difference made to the team by the arrival of Joel Muller, the manager spurned by Metz.

All this means French football has true depth. Look at the international team and you find a galaxy of players, from Fabien Barthez to Zinedine Zidane, who, having made their name in France, now operate abroad. Yet the domestic championship has clearly not been overly weakened because of it.

At Highbury, young Philippe Mexes gave another show of his defensive power and skill, abetted by Jean-Alain Boumsong, boosting his case to become a regular member of the French national team defence.

Wily old Guy Roux has yet again put together an Auxerre team of quality and potential surprise. Last season's top scorer, Djibril Cisse, was out through injury but Auxerre were lucky to be able to field such a formidable attacking partnership as 22-year-old local product Olivier Kapo and the incisive new arrival from Zimbabwe, 24-year-old Benjamin Mwaruwari, in his absence.

Roux certainly knows how to recruit from elsewhere to bolster the teams he has so successfully built, after so many distinguished years, from home-nurtured talent. One, unquestionably, is Khalilou Fadiga. A star of the excellent Senegalese World Cup team, he has been at Auxerre for two years now after seven long years in Belgian football. He might even have played for Belgium but stayed loyal to Senegal.

Then there is Finland midfielder Teemu Tainio, snapped up by Auxerre as an 18-year-old four years ago.

Significantly, no place in the starting line-up at Highbury could be found for 21-year-old Lionel Mathis, one of the most promising French midfielders of his generation.

The formidable Vahid Halilhodzic has not stayed unemployed for long following his departure from Lille last season, though his decision to join as unsuccessful a club as Rennes seemed strange. Halilhodzic argues that Rennes, although bumping along the bottom of the League at present, are potentially a major club and that they have the financial resources to do a great deal better.

"I believe [owner Francois] Pinault feels cheated, humiliated," he says. "He really wanted to build a great club in Brittany and has invested a lot of money with that ambition, but for the moment has scarcely been repaid."

Halilhodzic, who replaced Philippe Bergeroo, knows Rennes coaches come and go with some speed, and the club has also had three presidents in four years. The coach admits that in turning down the Olympiakos job, he had hoped, in vain, to go to Lyon. It will be much harder at Rennes.

Andre Duclos

Pro-file Arne Friedrich

Bundesliga newcomer already playing his part for Germany

NEVER was the term 'overnight sensation' more applicable than in the case of 23-year-old Hertha Berlin defender Arne Friedrich. Having played just two Bundesliga games, he won his first cap for Germany in August, making him the player with the least top-flight experience ever to appear for the *Nationalmannschaft*.

On signing for Hertha in the summer from promoted Arminia Bielefeld, the former Under-21 international had been widely expected to start on the bench. But with first-choice defenders such as Marko Rehmer and Dick Van Burik sidelined through injury, coach Huub Stevens turned to Friedrich to fill the vacant berth on the right side of his team's three-man rearguard.

He would have no cause to regret the youngster's inclusion. In both the German League Cup (which Hertha won) and the first two Bundesliga games (against Dortmund and Stuttgart) Friedrich cut a most impressive figure, faultless as a marker and even finding time to score in the 1-1 draw with Stuttgart.

Meanwhile, injuries to Jens Nowotny, Christian Worns and Frank Baumann, plus the international retirement of Thomas Linke, had left the *Nationalmannschaft* seriously short of defensive options. Despite the fact that Friedrich had completed only 180 minutes in the Bundesliga, national coach Rudi Voller had no hesitation in selecting him for the friendly with Bulgaria in Sofia.

His choice would be totally vindicated. After coming on as a second-half substitute, Friedrich was his usual cool and combative self, further enhancing his reputation by firing in a long-range drive that Carsten Jancker deflected home to earn Germany a 2-2 draw.

"I was completely surprised to be picked," said Friedrich. "My only thought this season was to establish myself for Hertha. Now I have to maintain myself at Rudi Voller's high level, and it will not be easy to become a regular for Germany. That's some way off."

Friedrich is right to remain level-headed. During his first start for Germany, the Euro 2004 qualifier against the Faroe Islands in Hannover, he headed an own goal in his country's less-than-convincing 2-1 victory, and at times he looked what he is – an international novice. But Friedrich will be back, and there is no little faith in his ability among those at Hertha.

"There is so much more to come from him," says general manager Dieter Hoeness. "I don't have any doubts. He has a perfect attitude. He will not let his sudden fame go to his head."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Hertha Berlin
Country Germany
Born May 29, 1979, in Bad Oeynhausen
Previous clubs FC Bad Oeynhausen, TuS Lohe, SC Herford, FC Gutersloh, SC Verl, Arminia Bielefeld
International debut August 2002, v Bulgaria
International caps 3 (0 goals)

Game of statues...Seaman and the England defence can't believe it as Macedonia's Sakiri scores direct from a corner

Eriksson feels the heat

Gavin Hamilton reports on trouble on and off the pitch for the England coach

THE DEPARTURE of Adam Crozier from the Football Association has inevitably increased speculation that England head coach Sven Goran Eriksson may be the next to depart. Eriksson has come under increasing pressure in the past month, both on and off the pitch.

Crozier was the man responsible, as FA chief executive, for hiring Eriksson as England's first foreign manager. The manner of his departure, forced out following a series of disagreements with Premier League chairmen, will have alarmed Eriksson, who suffered another blow the following day when his assistant coach Steve McClaren decided the time was right to step down.

Further tabloid interest in Eriksson's private life will also have unsettled the Swede, who must look longingly to Italy, where the media's interest, however persistent, rests firmly on sporting matters alone.

Eriksson's biggest source of angst, however, has been the performance of his team in the Euro 2004 qualifiers. A laboured 2-1 win over Slovakia was followed, four days later, by one of the most disappointing England performances in over a decade. Macedonia should have provided a morale-boosting win to recharge players after the summer's World Cup exploits. Instead, England were held 2-2 and Eriksson's tactical judgment was again called into question.

The most pressing issue now facing him – assuming he does not jump ship before England's next game, a possible February friendly – is the international future of goalkeeper David Seaman. The Arsenal keeper was widely held to be at fault for Macedonia's first goal, scored direct from a corner by Artim Sakiri. Seaman's problems have been compounded by difficulties at club level, where Arsenal, having won plaudits and broken records with their adventurous football, promptly went and lost four games in a row, all by the same scoreline, 2-1.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, having suggested that his team could go all season without losing, blamed the defeats on tiredness, a strange excuse so early in the season, although against Everton there was little his side could do to stop a wonderful winning goal from teenager Wayne Rooney (see profile, opposite).

Arsenal's dip in form allowed Liverpool to move, quietly and confidently, to top spot, coinciding with the return to goalscoring form of Michael Owen. Unlike Arsenal, Liverpool remained unbeaten in the League going into November, although home and away defeats by Valencia in the Champions League suggest European success may elude them.

Manager Gerard Houllier has been criticised for unadventurous tactics that rely too heavily on Owen. But his side are showing the sort of championship-winning form that is only likely to be challenged by Arsenal and, when Roy Keane returns from injury and suspension, Man United.

At the other end of the table, Sunderland made a surprise appointment to succeed the sacked Peter Reid when Howard Wilkinson quit his post as FA technical director to become their new manager. His assistant is the highly rated Steve Cotterill, previously with Stoke City.

SCOTLAND

Vogts off the mark at last

THERE is at last some cause for optimism on the international front after Scotland achieved back-to-back wins, the first of Berti Vogts' tenure as manager.

In the wake of the dire 2-2 draw in the Faroe Islands in September, the team comfortably defeated Iceland 2-0 in Reykjavik in their next Euro 2004 qualifier and then beat Canada 3-1 in a friendly in Edinburgh three days later.

With little more than a quarter of the Premier League campaign gone, the table has a tediously familiar look as Rangers and Celtic jockey for top spot.

Rangers are making a real contest of it, unlike last term, with the steely edge introduced by manager Alex McLeish complemented by the return from injury of Dutch striker Michael Mols and the resurgence of compatriot Ronald De Boer, playing in a more attacking role.

Celtic, intent on a third consecutive title, have been boosted by the dynamic midfield partnership forged by Bulgarian Stilian Petrov and Paul Lambert, while Henrik Larsson continues to find the net with almost monotonous regularity.

Attack-minded...De Boer (right)

Dundee United, who sacked manager Alex Smith, remain in relegation trouble, while Terry Butcher's position at the helm of financially stricken Motherwell has come under pressure following a string of defeats.

Alan Fairley

WALES

Barry rally

CHAMPIONS Barry Town have regained their form following their poor start to the season, putting together a four-game winning run to rise to within a point of leaders Port Talbot Town after 10 rounds.

Injury-hit Caersws, were languishing one place off the bottom, while Carmarthen Town, another side expected to do better, were fourth from bottom.

There were a few surprises in the second round of the Welsh Cup, with financially troubled top-flight side Caernarfon Town losing 2-1 at second level Brymbo Broughton. League high-fliers Afan Lido also went out to lower league opposition, losing on penalties to Neath AFC.

Mel Thomas

N IRELAND

Goals still on hold

THE national team's goal drought continued after a 3-0 defeat in Spain and 0-0 draw at home to Ukraine in their first two Euro 2004 qualifiers.

The team have not scored in their last five matches, their most recent goal coming in a 4-1 friendly defeat by Poland in February.

Manager Sammy McIlroy said "sloppy mistakes" had been the cause of all the Spanish goals, but the Irish never looked like repeating their famous victory of 20 years before in the World Cup finals when McIlroy was a member of the side.

The Irish were worth a share of the spoils four days later but had little chance of scoring after Ukraine marked dangerman Keith Gillespie out of the game.

Ukraine coach Leonid Buriak may not have been overly satisfied with a point, but was delighted to have stayed in the same hotel as Cliff Richard, who was in Belfast for a concert. Buriak revealed he had been a lifelong fan, listening to the singer's records while serving in the Red Army 30 years ago.

In the League, Glentoran's challenge was boosted by the restoration, following a FIFA ruling, of 12 points docked for fielding an ineligible player in four games.

Roy Kitson

Everton struggle to keep 'Roonaldo' under wraps

SPECTACULAR winning goals against Arsenal and Leeds have provided an intriguing calling card for Everton's 17-year-old Wayne Rooney. Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, led the chorus of praise by describing Rooney as "better than Michael Owen at the same age. Rooney is the best young talent I have seen since I came to England in 1996."

Whether he will fulfil that potential is another matter. England still awaits the fulfilment of similar prophecies for West Ham's Joe Cole, so Everton manager David Moyes has been right to try to dampen the inevitable 'wonderboy' hyperbole.

He already has records to his name – two goals in the Worthington Cup at Wrexham ensuring he eclipsed the legendary Tommy Lawton as Everton's youngest scorer, while the goal against Arsenal took away the Premiership's youngest scorer title held by Owen.

Rooney, the son of a working-class family from the Liverpool suburb of Croxteth, is still, officially, an 'apprentice' at Everton. This means he is paid just £120 a week. That will rise to a basic £1,000 when he signs his first professional contract but £8,000 every time he plays for the first team – which will be most weeks, either as substitute or starter, fitness permitting.

Rooney was expected to sign his first formal professional contract on his 17th birthday on October 24. However, it was delayed until December because the youngster is changing his agent. He is expected to join the Proactive agency run by Paul Stretford, which also handles Blackburn's Andrew Cole and Newcastle's Jermaine Jenas and Hugo Viana, when his contract with local agent Peter MacIntosh expires. He is not expected, however, to lose touch with his roots or to become 'big-headed', despite his new nickname – 'Roonaldo'.

The difference between Rooney's new 'superkid' status and his roots, three miles from Goodison Park, is immense. He still lives in a three-bedroom council house with his parents, Jeanette and Wayne, and his younger brothers, Graham and John. Jeanette is a dinner lady at a local school.

Graham, 14, has chosen to continue with the boxing career that Wayne junior gave up to pursue his football dream. John, 11, is also on the junior books at Everton. The family are all Everton-mad. An uncle played semi-professional football for England, and young Rooney's bedroom window, visible from the street, is filled with Everton pennants.

Around Liverpool, his name has been well known for a long time. He was only nine when he was spotted by Everton scout Bob Pendleton playing for boys' club Copplehouse in the local Walton and Kirkdale Junior League. In his last season with them he scored 99 goals before joining the Everton academy. His progress was so swift that he was playing for the Under-19s side when still only 15.

Everton fans have a long tradition of idolising centre-forwards, from Dixie Dean to Lawton, Alex Young, Joe Royle and present club captain Duncan Ferguson. It is natural they should be similarly enthusiastic about Rooney. He possesses power, confidence and determination beyond his years.

Moyes and club owner Bill Kenwright have promised that, despite reported interest from some of the biggest clubs in the world, Rooney will be staying at Goodison Park. For how long depends on how well and how fast he progresses.

Keir Radnedge

Fact file

Club Everton
Country England
Born October 24, 1985, in Liverpool

Brugge stand firm on Mendoza ban

Sollied's men left sweating on Europe after Peruvian striker pays price for training ground brawl. Nicholas Harling reports

BELGIUM

A PRINCIPLE was very much at stake when Club Brugge made the crucial decision to risk their hopes of progress in the Champions League by suspending Peru striker Andres Mendoza for three games. The 24-year-old had instigated a brawl on the training ground and was promptly omitted from coach Trond Sollied's team to face Charleroi.

As Charleroi were propping up the League, Brugge were right in thinking they could win without Mendoza. But after their 3-2 success, the early-season leaders stuck commendably to their guns, keeping him on the sidelines.

"Our team is not dependent on one single player," said Sollied on the eve of the home Champions League tie against Galatasaray. "Mendoza did something that we cannot accept. That is why he is not in our team."

Questions were being asked about the wisdom of Sollied's stand when Mendoza's deputy, Sandy Martens, missed chance after chance against Gala. But on the stroke of half-time he scored from close range to inspire his team to an impressive 3-1 victory.

However, the postponement of Brugge's next domestic fixture, against Anderlecht, meant that Mendoza's ban was completed with his exclusion from the Champions League tie against Barcelona. As the Catalans had already qualified, Brugge must have hoped they could get away with it. But a single goal from Argentinian Juan Roman Riquelme gave Barcelona a victory that left Brugge sweating on qualification for the second phase.

The fate of the other Belgian entrants, Genk, was known when their 1-1 draw against AEK Athens ended their slim hopes of progress. But at least they scored. The goal by Wesley Sonck was their first in 382 minutes of Champions League football. Sonck is very much the man of the moment. His goals for Belgium, a controversial last-minute effort in Andorra and then in Estonia, earned Belgium two 1-0 wins in the Euro 2004 qualifiers.

Excelsior Mouscron have paid heavily for fielding two unlicensed players in separate games. Their 3-2 victory over Mons in September has been changed to a 5-0 defeat because they played Matthieu Dejondkheere in the game. The same scoreline was awarded against Mouscron after they used Allo Efoulou against Club Brugge, though they had actually lost 5-1 anyway.

Five players, including seasoned internationals Eric Van Meir and Johan Walem, recently went three months without payment at troubled Standard Liege.

Missing out...Mendoza served a three-game club suspension

In command...Clarence Seedorf

HOLLAND

Seedorf comes good

THE national team have been anxious to make up for missing out on the World Cup finals, winning both their Euro 2004 qualifiers 3-0. Having swept aside Belarus at home in September, Holland beat Austria with ease in Vienna in mid-October.

Clarence Seedorf and Roy Makaay, two of the scorers, were the stars of the Austria game. Seedorf, who had not played for Holland for almost a year, gave one of the best performances in his 60-cap career on the right of a four-man midfield. He will probably now get the nod over Andy Van der Meyde for forthcoming games. Makaay also staked a claim for a regular start by showing his scoring touch is not limited to the Spanish League with Deportivo La Coruna. He partnered Patrick Kluivert up front, a position he clearly favours over the right-wing role he is sometimes given by Holland.

In the League, Ajax joined PSV at the top by winning 2-1 at Feyenoord, a result that left the Rotterdam club adrift of their two other 'Big Three' rivals. However, the board still went ahead and offered coach Bert Van Marwijk a new one-year deal.

Dwight Lodeweges was not so popular with Groningen and was fired after the club took only one point from their first eight games. He will be replaced by Ron Jans, who played for the club in the 1980s and has been assistant coach at Second Division Emmen.

Ajax are the latest club to suffer financial difficulties. They announced losses of £17.2million last year caused mainly by disappointing results on the stock market and poor returns from their stake in Belgian club Germinal Beerschot Antwerpen and a Ghanaian satellite club. Ajax now want to sell their shares in GBA, a move that could spell the end for the Belgian side, who are also in financial trouble.

If the losses are not stemmed soon, Ajax could be forced to sell stars such as skipper Cristian Chivu and Rafael Van der Vaart during the winter transfer window.

Klaas-Jan Droppert

● VETERAN **LUXEMBOURG** midfielder Luc Holtz is quitting international football, *writes Tim Brice*. The 33-year-old, who made his announcement after the 7-0 drubbing by Romania in the Euro 2004 qualifiers, said he wanted to make way for younger players. Holtz won 54 caps, scoring one goal.

SWITZERLAND

Vonlanthen answers the call

THERE was double cause for celebration on the international front in October. Kobi Kuhn's senior side beat the Republic of Ireland 2-1 in Dublin to go top of Euro 2004 qualifying Group 10, and the Under-21s came from 2-0 down to beat the Irish 3-2.

The winner in the latter game came from teenage dual-nationality striker Johan Vonlanthen, who had previously resisted calls to play for Swiss junior sides as he did not want to jeopardise his chances of one day playing for Colombia. However, the 17-year-old Young Boys player finally opted for Switzerland, boosting Kuhn's long-term attacking options. The coach had been disappointed in his search for new forward talent when Grasshopper youngsters Aleksandar Mitreski and Mladen Petric opted to join the Macedonia and Croatia squads respectively.

In the League, the qualifying stage has become a two-horse race,

with Grasshopper leading champions Basle by a point with four games to play. Third-placed Wil 1900 and Thun were 14 points off the top.

Ivar von Rulach

AUSTRIA

Daum brings influence to bear

HIGH-PROFILE Austria Wien boss Christoph Daum may like to say he has little control over events during a match. Yet what influence he does have seems to be more than sufficient. A 2-1 win in the Viennese derby at Rapid and a comfortable 4-0 home

Hard to please...Christoph Daum

victory against Sturm Graz put Daum's side nine points clear at the top after 16 rounds. At the moment, the gap in class between the Violets and the rest appears unbridgeable.

However, the German coach remains as demanding and intransigent as ever, saying: "Yes, we're playing very well, but we must improve more."

Walter Schachner, who was so unceremoniously dumped by Austria to make way for Daum, has taken over at struggling Grazer AK, becoming their third coach this season after Thijs Libregts and Christian Keglevits. In other changes, lowly Admira Modling dismissed Walter Knaller, while the former West Germany winger Rudiger Abramczik replaced the sacked Heinz Hochhauser at Karnten.

Nick Bidwell

PORTUGAL

Sporting hit back

MARIO JARDEL'S return to action with Sporting Lisbon has prompted a resurgence in the champions' fortunes. The Brazilian, who did not play for the club for the first few weeks of the season because he was suffering depression, scored the opening goal, a penalty, in Sporting's 2-1 win at Boavista which lifted them to joint second with Guimaraes and Belenenses. FC Porto remained top despite being held 2-2 at Uniao Leiria.

The news was virtually all bad for early-season leaders Benfica, who needed an added-time goal from substitute Carlitos to rescue a point at home to bottom side Academica. Shortly before the equaliser striker Miklos Feher was sent off for violent conduct, while Benfica also lost the services of international midfielder Petit for a month with a broken jaw.

The 1-1 draw meant the team slipped to fifth and put coach Jesualdo Ferreira under some pressure.

Alberto da Silva

REP OF IRELAND

Longford recover lost points

LONGFORD TOWN breathed a sigh of relief after successfully appealing against a nine-point deduction for fielding an apparently ineligible player.

Longford, second in the table before the docking, won the points back after arguing that they had been within their rights to field Trinidad and Tobago defender Avery John. The dispute arose after it emerged that Longford had not obtained international clearance to play John, who appeared in three games before the FAI stepped in.

Ten days after being appointed assistant manager of English Second Division side Tranmere Rovers, ex-Irish international David Kelly returned to Ireland to help Derry City beat Shamrock Rovers 1-0 in the FAI Cup Final. The scorer, Liam Coyle, was winning his third Cup in three different decades with the Candystripes.

Sean Creedon

LIECHTENSTEIN

Vaduz on Swiss roll

THE principality's top club FC Vaduz have been making the headlines after rising to second place in Switzerland's National Liga B. Their good form puts them on course for a place in the play-offs for promotion to the top flight.

Graeme Crawford

Pro-file Neca

In-form Belenenses midfielder capped on home turf

IT IS RELATIVELY rare for Portuguese national coaches to consider players who are not at one of the domestic Big Three – Benfica, Sporting Lisbon and FC Porto – or a top foreign side. Belenenses midfielder Neca is an exception.

Some cynics claimed that the 22-year-old's inclusion in the squad for October's home friendly with Tunisia was only because the game was being played at Belenenses' ground and that the presence of a local favourite would drum up interest at the box office. But that is more than unfair to one of the best young players in the country.

An all-rounder with the ability to win the ball, pass accurately and score goals, Neca has improved immeasurably in the past 18 months. Last season, his drive and goals were at the heart of his club's respectable fifth-place League finish, and he has continued in the same vein this term. He set the tone with two goals in the opening day 2-2 draw at FC Porto and has produced several man-of-the-match displays in Belenenses' strong start.

Neca, born Joao Alexandre Duarte Fernandes, plays with the same grit and purpose in central midfield as former Portugal skipper Paulo Sousa. But the pair are poles apart in one crucial area. The opposition box was usually a step too far for Sousa, while Neca has developed his goalscoring craft year on year.

Even so, Neca was not to enjoy a full-blown international debut against Tunisia. Caretaker coach Agostinho Oliveira only brought him on 11 minutes from time. Not that the youngster was complaining at the end of the 1-1 draw. "The last few days with the national team have been a really positive experience," said Neca, a Belenenses first-teamer since January 1998. "I'm satisfied, and the crowd gave me a wonderful welcome. I just wish the result had been different."

While stressing that he was totally committed to the Belenenses cause this season, Neca also added that he hoped his first cap would eventually lead to a move to a higher-profile team. His club coach, Marinho Peres, accepts that the star midfielder will probably leave for Benfica, Sporting Lisbon or FC Porto at the end of the season.

"Neca has fought hard and exploited his talent to come through the Belenenses youth ranks and reach the national team," says Peres. "If a big club makes a move for him, it's good for him as a professional and for a club like Belenenses, who can negotiate a good fee for him. He's one of the most important prospects in Portuguese football, a kid with tremendous potential. Sooner or later he was bound to come into his own."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Belenenses
Country Portugal
Born December 31, 1979, in Lisbon
Previous club Olivais e Moscavide
International debut October 2002, v Tunisia
International caps 1 (0 goals)

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Eggen leaves on a high

The veteran coach has led Rosenborg to yet another League title, writes Sigurd Odegaard

Nice way to go...champions Rosenborg applaud Eggen into retirement as coach

NORWAY

ROSENBORG said farewell to long-term coach Nils Arne Eggen in grand style by beating Brann 4-0 on the final day of the season to wrap up their 11th consecutive League championship. The title had, in fact, been clinched the previous week, when Molde, Rosenborg's closest challengers, failed to capitalise on the Trondheim side's 2-2 draw at Sogndal by losing 4-2 at Stabaek.

With the exception of one season when Trond Sollied was in charge, Eggen has been at the helm since 1988, the year after he guided Moss to the title. Aage Hareide is poised to replace the all-conquering 61-year-old former international.

Harald Brattbakk scored two of Rosenborg's final-day goals to finish League top scorer for the fourth time with a tally of 17. The victory meant Brann were consigned to face Sandefjord in a relegation/promotion play-off. Moss are definitely down, along with long-since-doomed Start.

Tromso won the First Division championship by beating Aalesund at home in the penultimate round, but Aalesund themselves secured promotion by trouncing Sandefjord at home 5-1 in their final game. The town of Aalesund has never before been represented in the nation's top division. Coach Ivar Morten Normark, a former player with Brann and Bodo/Glimt, has steered the team to success in assured fashion.

Nils Johan Semb's position as national coach is rather more secure after his side beat Romania 1-0 in a Bucharest mudbath and then defeated Bosnia-Herzegovina 2-0 at home in the Euro 2004 qualifiers.

DENMARK

Danes pained by neighbour knockouts

DANISH football indulged in some painful introspection after several woeful defeats in European club competition, particularly against other Scandinavian teams. Brondby's defeat by Norwegian champions Rosenborg and FC Copenhagen's UEFA Cup exit to Swedish champions Djurgardens were galling reminders that club football in Denmark still suffers by comparison with the national side.

"Danish players are by tradition a bit spoiled," said national coach Morten Olsen. "There's no doubt that all clubs have made tremendous improvements in terms of physical strength and the pace of the game, but many players struggle to maintain the same tactical discipline as in Norway and Sweden."

According to Poyul Hansen, the thoughtful coach of AGF Aarhus: "An average player in the Superliga can easily be a millionaire. This makes the players lazy, and generally they lack the encouragement to go flat out during training."

That said, the Superliga is enjoying a dynamic season, with vastly improved attendances, plenty

of goals, and fierce competition – FC Copenhagen were eight points clear after 14 rounds, but the other 11 top-flight sides were separated by just seven points.

Jim Holden

SWEDEN

Kallstrom-inspired Djurgardens win first title for 36 years

DJURGARDENS won their final four games of the season to take their first League title since 1966.

The Stockholm side, for whom midfielder Kim Kallstrom was the star performer, needed a point at Elfsborg on the final day but removed all doubt with a 2-0 win while closest challengers Malmo lost 1-0 at Halmstads.

Norrkoping and Kalmar were relegated, to be replaced by four-times champions Osters and top-flight debutants Enkoping.

Kallstrom's superb form for

Star of the show...Kim Kallstrom

Djurgardens has led to growing calls for his inclusion in the national team set-up. Sweden's patchy start in the Euro 2004 campaign – draws with Latvia and Hungary – showed that the midfield needs strengthening. Meanwhile, it appears only a matter of time before Kallstrom moves to a top European league, with Hertha Berlin leading the chasers.

Co-national coaches Lars Lagerback and Tommy Soderberg have been quietly introducing a 3-5-2 formation to the national team, instead of the perennial 4-4-2. However, the first test of the new system, in a friendly against Portugal, failed as Sweden threw away a 2-0 lead to lose 3-2.

Pentti Hietanen

FINLAND

HJK tie up 20th championship

HJK HELSINKI duly won their 20th League championship, securing the title with two games to spare.

Keith Armstrong's team relied on a tight defence and on the goals of big striker Mika Kottila, who finished with 18, to pip FC Haka's Russian veteran Valery Popovitch for the League's top scorer spot.

Kottila, 27, is a journeyman, having had previous stints in Norway and Sweden. But playing for HJK always seems to bring out the best from the player nicknamed 'Moose' by the fans for his size and high-stepping running style.

Armstrong has now won the League in four of the past five seasons. The defensive key to his latest triumph was the inspired signing of stopper Tero Penttila from Rangers, who became HJK's captain and pillar at the back.

The national team's shaky form in the Euro 2004 qualifiers continued with a 2-0 defeat by Yugoslavia in Belgrade. Ironically, Finland produced one of their best recent displays during the first half only to squander several perfectly good chances.

Pentti Hietanen

ICELAND

Gudjonsson? Good decision

AN INSPIRED substitution by national coach Atli Edvaldsson helped Iceland to an ultimately comfortable 3-0 home win over Lithuania in the Euro 2004 qualifiers, four days after they had lost 2-0 to Scotland.

With no score and Lithuania a man down due to the early dismissal of Deividas Cesnauskis, Edvaldsson introduced Stoke City midfielder Bjarni Gudjonsson as a tactical replacement for full-back Bjarni Thorsteinsson just before half-time. Although unaccustomed to a defensive role, Gudjonsson rewarded his coach's faith by adding a new dimension to Iceland's play in terms of speed and width.

Although the victory was emphatic, Edvaldsson has still not managed to find a settled defence and still lacks a natural leader for his team.

Rab Christie

Pro-file Peter Ijeh

Malmo's prolific Nigerian looking to score for Sweden

THERE has rarely been a dull moment in the life of Malmo's Nigeria-born striker Peter Ijeh since he began the 2002 Allsvenskan campaign with eight goals in six appearances.

As the goals continued to rattle in, Ijeh harboured hopes of making a late pitch for a spot in Nigeria's World Cup squad. But the call never came, and after claiming that a request for an explanation for his omission was met with a stony silence, he has apparently decided to turn his back on his homeland, looking instead to the country where he earns his living for international football.

The Swedish federation has subsequently contacted Ijeh with a view to enlisting him for its own national team, and there may be grounds for naturalisation. Although Ijeh has already played twice for Nigeria, neither game was a competitive fixture.

His acceptance into the Swedish fold will, however, be anything but straightforward. Swedish citizenship has a five-year residency requirement, and Ijeh has been in the country only since 2001, joining Malmo from the Julius Berger club after helping them win the Nigerian League the previous year.

Despite such an obstacle, Ijeh believes he is a special case. "The immigration rules state there can be exceptional circumstances, and I think this is one of those exceptions," he says. "I am a sportsman, they might need me to play for them, so it doesn't really matter how long I have lived here. I think I should get it."

Ijeh has been quick to pay tribute to the role played by Malmo coach Tom Prahl in his spectacular development. In the 2001 season, Ijeh contributed just four goals in 19 appearances, while this term he is the country's top scorer with 24 goals to his name.

Prahl is equally complimentary to the Nigerian, pointing to the part the improved form of Ijeh played in transforming the team from mid-table makeweights to championship contenders. "Peter has been the key player for us," insists Prahl. "He has great balance – so even if you tackle him, he can stand up to it and is not easily dispossessed – good technique, speed over short distances and is strong in the air."

News of Ijeh's feats has spread like wildfire, with agent Gunnar Grynner claiming that Barcelona and Parma are among 10 European clubs interested in his client. If he did make such a move to one of the continent's top leagues, he is unlikely to be overawed. "You might be beaten in a match sometimes," he says, "but if you are strong, you need to balance everything out and the sky can be your limit."

Greg Lansdowne

Fact file

Club Malmo (Swe)
Country Nigeria
Born March 28, 1977, in Lagos
Previous clubs Nitel FC, Julius Berger
International caps 2

Baric has back to the wall

The national coach is already in trouble, writes Zdravko Reic

CROATIA

OTTO BARIC, appointed as national coach only in the summer, is already under pressure to step down following Croatia's dismal start to the Euro 2004 qualifying campaign.

The 69-year-old's charges lost 2-0 in Bulgaria in October having only managed a 0-0 draw at home to Estonia the previous month.

The main criticisms directed at the coach are his lack of continuity in player selection and his tendency to criticise his players for mistakes partly caused by his own tactical shortcomings.

Baric certainly offered a hostage to fortune by declaring on his appointment: "I know how to do the job. I'll do my job, I'll make an optimal team. Croatia are securely on the way to Euro 2004."

Now FA president Vlatko Markovic has put his own position in question by publicly backing the coach. "Baric enjoys our full confidence, there is no talk of his removal," said Markovic, who ironically had originally ruled Baric out of the running to succeed World Cup coach Mirko Jozic because of his age.

Former international Igor Stimac is leading the call for the resignation of both men. "Markovic was right; it's time for younger leaders, so why doesn't he leave and take Baric with him?" said the former Derby and West Ham player, now at Hajduk Split.

Zvonimir Boban, a member of the Croatia side that finished third at France 98, is the choice of many observers to replace Markovic. Boban is believed to harbour ambitions for office and recently rounded off his playing career with a farewell game featuring players from two of his former sides – Dinamo Zagreb and Milan.

● Osijek and national Under-21 forward Danijel Popovic, one of Croatia's most talented young players, has died in a car crash at the age of 20.

Fond farewell...Zvonimir Boban hugs former Milan team-mate Frank Rijkaard

GREECE

Play resumes with problems unresolved

THE League campaign resumed on October 26 following a four-week suspension called by the clubs to allow time for a solution to be found to a cash-crisis row that has rocked domestic football.

The suspension, announced by the Greek Union of Professional Football Clubs (EPAE), started on September 29 and affected the country's top three divisions. The decision came after the government refused to help bail out financially struggling clubs, whose problems had been exacerbated by the bankruptcy of the largest of Greece's pay-TV stations.

The union was hoping the government would allow Greek teams to join the popular state-run football pools Pame Stichima – which currently features only foreign teams – and receive a percentage of the income. However, the government refused permission for this.

EPAE admitted that a solution had not been found to the game's financial problems during the suspension but decided that extending it would not help matters.

Violence marred the restart as the PAOK Salonika-Olympiakos match was stopped for 25 minutes after a linesman was struck on the head by an object thrown from the crowd. Police used teargas to disperse angry PAOK fans outside the stadium after the game, which finished 1-1.

The match was the first in charge for Olympiakos coach Yiannis Kollias, who has replaced Takis Lemonis. A day later, Sergio Markarian returned to the bench of Panathinaikos, six months after he had last taken charge of the side. He was reappointed following the departure of Fernando Santos, the man who had succeeded him in the summer.

Lou Economopoulos

YUGOSLAVIA

Dejan's boys do well

THE national side made a good start to the Euro 2004 qualifiers, drawing 1-1 away to Italy in Naples and beating Finland 2-0 at home, to provide a boost for Yugoslav football as a whole.

Dejan Savicevic's side put in a remarkable defensive performance against Italy and, given the rather unadventurous performance of the hosts, who played without Francesco Totti and Christian Vieri, even a win would not have been undeserved.

After some first-half scares against Finland four days later, Yugoslavia took control of the game to secure a comfortable win.

The 119th meeting between Partizan and Red Star finished 2-2, and the high standard of football meant it was one of the best Belgrade derbies in recent years.

Vladimir Novak

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Lillies wilt in Norway

THE national team's 1-1 home friendly draw with Germany raised hopes that they would take something from their Euro 2004 tie away to Norway five days later. However, the Lillies lost 2-0, leaving them without a point or a goal from their first two qualifiers.

Coach Blaz Sliskovic has continued to claim that interference from the FA is preventing him from carrying out his duties as he wishes. "I need people who won't work behind my back and who are willing to help me in the search for new players," said Sliskovic, who has now been given two assistants by the federation – Admir Smajic, who coaches Berne, and Vlatko Glavas, a restaurant owner in Dusseldorf.

Zdravko Reic

SLOVENIA

Maribor still in the mire

MARIBOR'S troubled season has continued, with the champions now out of the Cup at the hands of main rivals Olimpija. Maribor lost 4-3 on aggregate in the quarter-finals, a result that sparked the resignation of club president Joze Jagodnik. His parting shot was to blame former coach Bojan Prasnikar, now the national team boss, for the club's plight. After 13 rounds in the League, Maribor trailed leaders Olimpija by eight points.

Prasnikar has opted not to utilise the friendly international date in November, saying: "Our players are exhausted and that's why we decided not to gather again until a tournament in Portugal in January." The coach's comments came in the wake of Slovenia's 5-0 drubbing by France in the Euro 2004 qualifiers.

Zdravko Reic

TURKEY

Terim under fire

GALATASARAY coach Fatih Terim was roundly criticised for his team selection after his side lost 3-1 away to Club Brugge in the Champions League. The result left Gala in danger of missing out on the second group phase having gone into the game well on course to go through.

Terim included a number of players who have appeared only rarely in the League this season, while he also partnered Arif Erdem with Elvir Baljic up front – a pairing he had never fielded before. Meanwhile, Turkish internationals Hasan Sas and Umit Karan were warming the bench.

Hasan Cemali

Sidelined...Hasan Sas

ISRAEL

Violence mars Tel Aviv derby

BNEI YEHUDA TEL AVIV supporters went on the rampage following their team's 4-1 home League defeat by city rivals Hapoel. Hundreds of angry fans streamed from the ground and began throwing rocks at their Hapoel counterparts, who were still inside the compact Hatikva Quarter stadium. It took over an hour for the police to regain control and several people were injured.

The FA disciplinary court ordered Bnei Yehuda to play their next four matches at a neutral venue, with two of the games behind closed doors. Meanwhile, the club's shirt sponsors pulled out of their deal.

The national side laboured to a 2-0 Euro 2004 win in Malta in their first full competitive outing under new coach Avraham Grant. The Israelis' insipid performance led to a lashing by the press and to calls for Grant to sweep the decks and bring in some younger talent.

Derek Fattal

MACEDONIA

Country buoyed by draw with England

THE national team's famous 2-2 draw away to England in the Euro 2004 qualifiers induced countrywide celebrations and gave coach Nikola Ilievski unexpected job security just shortly after he had criticised the FA.

Ilievski had expected to be sacked before the England game after claiming that the FA had neglected the national team and coaching staff. However, he has now signed a contract that keeps him in charge until December 2005.

The coach, whose side had lost only narrowly, 2-1, at home to Turkey four days before the game in Southampton, appeared to surprise opposition coach Sven Goran Eriksson with his offensive tactics.

Nexhat Shabani has resigned as coach of former champions Sloga Jugomagnat after the team took only eight points from their first 11 games. His successor is former assistant Adnan Zekir. Ilija Dimoski has replaced Jordan Samokovliski at newly promoted Bregalnica Delcevo.

Michel Stojmanovski

MALTA

Goalless and pointless

NATIONAL coach Sigi Held criticised his players for squandering possession too easily during the 4-0 Euro 2004 qualifying defeat by France that left Malta pointless and bottom of Group 1. The team have also failed to score in their two other games – against Slovenia (3-0) and Israel (2-0).

Sliema midfielder Joe Brincat won his 100th cap during the latter tie.

In the League, champions Hibernians brushed aside their early inconsistent start by beating fellow title rivals Sliema and Birkirkara, 2-0 and 3-0 respectively.

Domenico Aquilina

Pro-file Yiannakis Okkas

Cypriot forward who tied the French defence in knots

CYPRUS may have lost 2-1 at home to France in a recent Euro 2004 qualifier, but those 90 minutes were a personal triumph for Yiannakis Okkas.

The forward opened the scoring early on with a delicate chip that left French keeper Gregory Coupet completely stranded, and generally was a man inspired. His clever movement, speed and ability with the ball at his feet meant he often proved too hot to handle for France's much-vaunted centre-backs, Marcel Desailly and Philippe Christanval. The PAOK Salonika forward's dribbling skills posed a conundrum that the former rarely solved, while the latter seemed a nervous wreck every time Okkas came near him.

"Yes, I thought I had a good game tonight," said the 24-year-old. "Despite their poor World Cup, the French are still one of the best international teams around, and it's a matter of great pride that we gave them a lot of problems."

Since quitting Cypriot champions Anorthosis Famagusta for PAOK Salonika in summer 2000, Okkas has worked hard to shed his image of a richly talented but erratic performer. Now, it is only a question of time before he cashes in with a transfer to Western Europe. The forward has been linked in the past with Juventus, Udinese, West Ham and Blackburn; thanks to his display against the French, there should be even more scouts beating a path to PAOK's Toumbas stadium, especially with the asking price likely to be no more than £2million.

PAOK could use the money since the collapse of the main pay-TV deal in Greece and some injudicious financial decisions have left the club with a mountain of debt.

In fact, Okkas very nearly did not start the current campaign in PAOK colours. Unhappy about the non-payment of their salaries, the forward and fellow Cypriots Yiasemakis Yiasoumi and Yiotis Engomitis filed a suit to have their contracts with PAOK declared null and void. However, majority shareholder Giorgios Batatoudis somehow found the money to meet the arrears, and the Greek Economic Court of Appeal ruled against Okkas and company.

Although not entirely happy to still be at PAOK, Okkas has not been sulking. He was outstanding in his club's 4-1 win over Panathinaikos on the opening day of the season and scored with a magnificent lob in the 5-3 aggregate success against Portuguese side Leixoes in the UEFA Cup first round. He is playing for a move and should soon have his wish.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club PAOK Salonika (Gre)
Country Cyprus
Born December 11, 1977, in Larnaca
Previous clubs Nea Salamina, Anorthosis Famagusta
International debut February 1997, v Poland
International caps 45 (9 goals)
Honours Cypriot League 1998, 1999, 2000 (Anorthosis); Cypriot Cup 1998; Greek Cup 2001

Boniek takes the rap

Dariusz Kurowski on the aftermath of the defeat by Latvia

POLAND

NATIONAL coach Zbigniew Boniek has said he is taking full responsibility for Poland's shock 1-0 home defeat by Latvia in the Euro 2004 qualifiers.

The surprise result followed on from his side's less-than-convincing 2-0 win away to San Marino in September.

"I believed we would have six points after two competitive matches," said Boniek, who took over from Jerzy Engel in the summer. "I knew that Latvia were a well-organised team, but I never expected, even in my worst nightmares, to lose this game.

"When you are building a new team, you cannot blame young players who have not enough experience. So I take full responsibility for this defeat."

Boniek took some comfort from the 2-0 friendly win over New Zealand four days after the Latvia debacle. "This victory has very important psychological consequences for my players," said the former international. "I have understood all the criticism after our defeat against Latvia. But we must forget about such a disappointing match as fast as possible, draw conclusions and work hard."

There was also a major upset in the Polish Cup when defending League champions Legia Warsaw were beaten 1-0 by Second Division RKS Radomsko. However, Legia extended their unbeaten League run to 31 games with a 2-0 win against Widzew Lodz to stay top of the table. The game was marred by hooliganism, however, with play interrupted for 15 minutes when Legia and Widzew fans fought on the pitch.

State of shock...Yury Laizans celebrates his goal for Latvia against Poland

RUSSIA

Neutral venue demanded after stoning

NATIONAL coach Valeri Gazzayev and his players have demanded that their abandoned Euro 2004 qualifier against Georgia be restaged at a neutral venue after their team bus was pelted with stones in Tbilisi.

The incident happened as the Russians made their way back to the airport following the half-time abandonment of the original tie in the Georgian capital because of floodlight failure.

The two FAs later agreed to replay the game on April 30 next year, but the venue is still undecided.

Four days after the Tbilisi debacle, Russia defeated Albania 4-1 in Volgograd, the first time an official home international had been played outside Moscow. The new venue was used in order to support Russia's bid to host Euro 2008, when the country will have to stage games outside Moscow and St Petersburg.

In the closest ever League run-in, the Moscow trio of Lokomotiv, CSKA and Spartak were headed for an almost certain 'photo-finish'.

No such tension in the promotion stakes, with First Division champions Rubin Kazan and runners-up Chernomorets Novorossiisk assured of their places in the top flight well before the end of the campaign.

Victor Gusev

● The League championship in **AZERBAIJAN** is still paralysed, with 11 clubs continuing to boycott games, *writes Vladimir Kalinkovich*. The action, which began in the spring, has been taken in protest at perceived corruption within the FA. A joint commission, held in Switzerland in September, has been the sole positive step taken to bridge the impasse, though no solution has yet emerged.

● Irtysh won the championship in **KAZAKHSTAN** by eight points from Atyrau to book a place in next season's UEFA Champions League.

UKRAINE

Surkis rejects foreign player restrictions

FEDERATION president Hryhoriy Surkis has ended speculation that limits on the number of foreign players in the domestic League would be introduced.

"All European countries are increasing the quantity of foreigners. How many English players are consistently playing for Arsenal? It is, as a rule, one or two only. The same situation exists in the other leading football countries," said the former Kyiv Dynamo president. "I think the problem with foreigner numbers must be settled in an evolutionary way. We don't need revolution on this important and delicate issue."

Arsenal Kyiv president Sergiy Borovikov has resigned and handed power to former Metalurh Mariupol supremo Mikhail Pozhivanov.

Metalurh's former Ukraine youth international Stepan Malokutsko has died in a car accident. The 23-year-old played 10 matches for his country at junior level, scoring three goals.

Oleg Zadernovsky

HUNGARY

Magyars hit form

THE national side enjoyed their best start to a qualifying tournament since the 1980s with an unexpected though deserved 1-1 draw with Sweden in Stockholm and a 3-0 home win over San Marino.

Bela Illes, the leading scorer in the League, missed a late penalty for top side MTK away to Videoton. The game finished goalless allowing main challengers Ferencvaros to narrow the gap to two points as they beat Siofok 4-0.

Peterjon Cresswell

CZECH REPUBLIC

Baros inspires perfect start

THE national team got off to the best possible start in their qualifying campaign for Euro 2004, winning 2-0 against Moldova on a mudbath of a pitch in Chisinau, then defeating Belarus by the same score four days later in Teplice.

Milan Baros was the star of the second game, setting up the first goal for captain Karel Poborsky and scoring the second with a superb strike after a three-man move.

Sparta Prague continue to call the shots in the League and are strong favourites to win the 'autumn championship'.

Champions Slovan Liberec came a cropper away to Viktoria Zizkov, the 4-0 defeat being their heaviest for four years. The result allowed Slavia Prague to leapfrog them into second place after they beat Brno 2-0. The goals came from Richard Dostalek, a former Brno player.

Roy Kitson

SLOVAKIA

Second defeat signals the end

LADISLAV JURKEMIK'S radically altered national team line-up gave a much improved display at home to England in the Euro 2004 qualifiers but still lost 2-1. The coach began the game with only four of the side who started against Turkey in September, when Slovakia went down 3-0. The two defeats virtually rule out any chance of the team challenging for a play-off place.

Roy Kitson

Inspirational...Milan Baros

ROMANIA

Olaroiu quits Steaua after chairman's threat

THE manager-go-round has continued apace, with a further six clubs switching coach. The biggest casualty was Cosmin Olaroiu, who seemed to have weathered the storm at Steaua Bucharest, only to resign after being told that club chairman Viorel Paunescu would not tolerate a poor result against Arges Pitesti. In the event Steaua won 3-2, but by then Olaroiu had departed.

"I felt there was always a coldness from Paunescu," said the ex-National Bucharest coach. "His statements were not normal for a professional club. If we won, would the threat just be postponed to the next game?"

Victor Piturca, who moved upstairs to make way for Olaroiu at the end of last season, has taken the hot seat once again. In his first game back, the team gained an impressive 2-1 victory over League leaders Rapid.

Defending champions Dinamo are still in a state of flux, partly caused by a bewildering number of coaching changes. Florin Marin resigned before the season started and was replaced by general manager Cornel Dinu, who then stood aside for Ion Moldovan. Marin was reinstated two games later, but was sacked after three matches and initially replaced by Dinu's godson, Cornel Talnar. Dinu then took charge again.

Bacau have replaced Dumitru Dumitriu with Ilie Dumitrescu, Viorel Hizo has come in for Petre Grigoras at Farul Constanta, Ion Moldovan has taken over from Florin Halagian at Arges, and Sorin Cirtu has returned to Universitatea Craiova following the dismissal of Dumitru Marcu.

Jonathan Wilson

BULGARIA

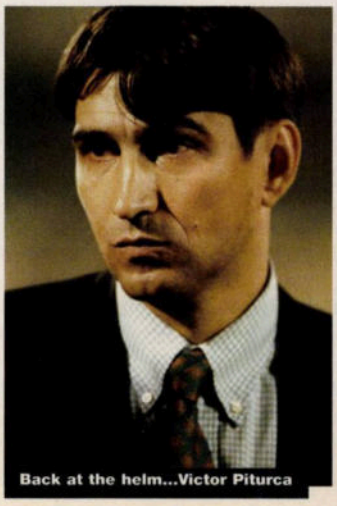
CSKA carry on winning

CSKA SOFIA demolished city rivals Levski 3-0 at the end of October to extend their winning run to 10 games since the start of the season.

Reds coach Stoicho Mladenov is desperate to guard against complacency, however. "We are still a long way from the title," he said. "The most important thing is that we managed to silence our title rivals."

The national team top Euro 2004 qualifying Group 8 following home victories over Croatia and Andorra.

Jonathan Wilson



Back at the helm...Victor Piturca

Pro-file Georgi Chilikov

Bulgarian record signing proving his worth for Levski

LEVSKI SOFIA knew what they were doing when they paid Neftochimik a record Bulgarian domestic transfer fee of £800,000 for up-and-coming forward Georgi Chilikov in summer 2001. Playing alongside star Levski striker Georgi Ivanov last term, Chilikov contributed 10 goals as his new team won the League for the third successive year. This season, with Ivanov now at Rennes, the 24-year-old has already outstripped that total, hitting 11 goals in his first 10 League games.

"Georgi has the taste for goals at the moment, and it's wonderful to see him so sharp," says Levski managing director Nasko Sirakov. "With his speed, determination and technique, he is a striker who can go a long way in the game. However, he is a good team man, too, and many overlook the chances he makes for others.

"While we were all sad to see Georgi Ivanov go to France, we know we have someone in Chilikov who will continue to keep the goals coming. It's a pity Ivanov and Chilikov only played together for a season. That was not long enough."

Now, the only chance of seeing the pair in tandem up front is in the colours of Bulgaria. Chilikov won his first cap, as a substitute, in the 2-0 Euro 2004 win in Belgium. His next two national team appearances would provide him with markedly different emotions. After coming off the bench in the 2-0 home win over Croatia, Chilikov was guilty of wasting two excellent chances. But he celebrated his first start, against Andorra, by opening the scoring in the 2-1 win. "Chilikov is shaping up very well," says Bulgaria coach Plamen Markov. "I thought he showed a lot of promise at Neftochimik, and he's been maturing nicely. The trick is for him not to assume he's a big star already. He is nowhere near his peak, but in two or three years he could be really special."

Chilikov should have no trouble keeping a sense of perspective. After all, he has had some disappointments to contend with this season. A missed penalty in Levski's Champions League preliminary round loss to Kyiv Dynamo was a moment to forget, as was his club's recent 3-0 thumping by rivals CSKA Sofia in the League.

With CSKA sitting pretty at the top of the table, Levski will need Chilikov's classy finishing to stay in touch.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Levski Sofia
Country Bulgaria
Born August 23, 1978, in Bourgas
Previous club Neftochimik
International debut September 2002, v Belgium
International caps 3 (1 goal)
Honours Bulgarian League 2002; Bulgarian Cup 2002

Young Santos revive the good old days

Brian Homewood on the resurgence of a former great club

Making amends...Emerson Leao has Santos playing bright, attacking football

BRAZIL

SANTOS, who have spent most of the past 30 years reminiscing about their past, have at last begun to look forward. The 'Fish' have lit up the Brazilian championship with a youthful team that promises to help the club emerge from the shadows of the Pele-inspired team of the 1960s.

Pele left the club in 1973, and Santos, who became world-beaters during his heyday, went back to being just another middle-ranking club. They have not won a domestic title since the Paulista championship in 1984, and their Libertadores Cup triumphs of 1962 and 1963 are now just a distant memory.

But many believe the current team are heading for great things providing, of course, they can fend off the European clubs who are already casting beady eyes on players such as 17-year-old midfielder Diego and 18-year-old Robinho.

In an age when Brazilian coaches appear obsessed with marking, tackling and, most of all, 'killing the play', Santos have allowed Brazilians to flirt with the past thanks to a game based on flair, talent and uninhibited attack.

An eight-match unbeaten run, culminating in a 4-1 demolition of Cruzeiro, led by former Brazil boss Vanderlei Luxemburgo, virtually guaranteed Santos a place in the quarter-finals of the Brazilian championship. "Brazilian football hasn't had a group of young players like this for a long time," said Fernando Calazans, columnist in the Rio de Janeiro daily *O Globo*.

Diego and Robinho spearhead a team in which only three of the regular players are over 23. The teenage pair are rated as two of the most exciting prospects that Brazil has produced for several years with their so-called *'futebol moleque'* – literally, cheeky schoolboy football.

The Santos revival has been born out of necessity. For years, the club attempted to build teams by splashing out on expensive, big-name players, known in Brazil as Medalhoes – 'Big Medals'. But at the start of this year, Brazilian football's financial problems forced club directors to change direction and turn to home-grown products – just as they did 40 years ago when they unearthed Pele's generation.

Diego, who made his debut at the start of this year, was uncovered by club scouts in Ribeirao Preto, an agricultural centre in Sao Paulo state. "I've always had confidence in my game but I never thought this would happen so quickly," he said.

Curiously, all this has been overseen by Emerson Leao, whose previous reputation for arguing,

Round-up

COLOMBIA: Midfielder Herman Gaviria, who played for Colombia in the 1994 World Cup, died when struck by lightning while training with League leaders Deportivo Cali in October. Giovanny Cordoba, one of three other players hurt in the incident, died of his injuries four days later. In 1993, a similar incident occurred at the same training ground when Juan Carlos Bonilla, 19, was killed and Carlos Arroyo suffered severe burns that ended his playing career.

Former Colombia keeper Rene Higuita has been banned for six months for failing a drugs test after playing just two games for his new side, Deportivo Pereira. Higuita, 36, admitted taking cocaine while celebrating his birthday.

Veteran forward Ivan Valenciano faces 11 months in prison for failing to comply with the conditions of his release, including the payment of a £20,000 indemnity fee, following a prosecution two years ago for causing a traffic accident in which a girl was seriously injured. Valenciano was arrested in the dressing-room just after scoring twice on his debut for top division side Real Cartagena.

URUGUAY: Nacional players have refused to train more than once a day after claiming they have not been paid for five months. The team, who won the opening championship, trailed closing leaders Danubio by five points with four games to play.

CHILE: International referee Carlos Chandia was suspended for one game after telling Universidad Catolica's stand-in goalkeeper which way to dive at a penalty during the 1-1 draw in the 'Uni' classic with Universidad de Chile. Cristian Alvarez, a defender who had replaced injured American keeper Johnny Walker after 75 minutes because Catolica had already used their three substitutes, followed Chandia's instructions and saved the kick. Chandia said: "I wasn't doing anything wrong. I only wanted to give him the advice his team-mates were shouting at him, because with his nervousness he may not have heard them."

Six-month ban...Higuita

ECUADOR: Deportivo Quito won the closing championship to take the maximum three bonus points into the overall play-offs.

PARAGUAY: World Cup forward Jose Cardozo has threatened to retire from international football if the FA punish him for pulling out of Paraguay's recent friendly against Spain. The FA claims Cardozo informed them of an injury the day before he played a full game for his Mexican side Toluca, during which he scored a hat-trick.

Eric Weil

gamesmanship and displays of temper made him one of the least likely candidates to coach a bunch of teenagers. Leao, however, appears to be revelling in the chance to mend his reputation, which was also tainted by a miserable eight months in charge of the national team during their disastrous run in the 2002 World Cup qualifiers. He was also in the hot seat when Brazil crashed to their historic defeat by Australia in the 2001 Confederations Cup and was sacked at Tokyo airport as the team prepared to return home.

Leao has not changed his spots completely, however, and was involved in the nastiest incident of the championship away to Paysandu. The trouble started when the hosts went 2-1 ahead in the 87th minute after scoring from what Santos claimed, wrongly as it turned out, to be an offside position. The entire Santos team went to the linesman to protest, prompting riot police to move in and protect the official.

As Santos players continued to argue, one of the police whacked defender Preto – who had been trying to usher his team-mates away – on the head with his truncheon, knocking him unconscious. The big defender was whisked away in an ambulance but fortunately escaped serious injury, needing only a few stitches in a cut above his ear.

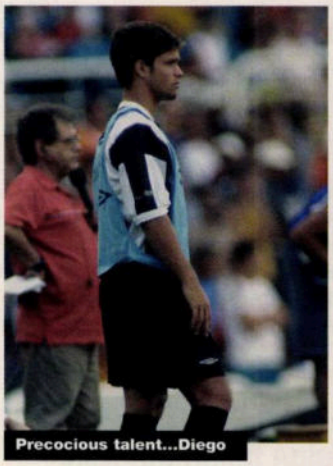
The rest of the team reacted by aiming karate kicks at the police shields with Leao in the thick of things. At one stage, one of the police was seen to spray a substance in Leao's face, leaving him red-eyed and groggy. "This wasn't a game, it was a war," said the coach. "They're incompetent. This is why nobody trusts the police any more."

By press time, Sao Paulo, Santos, Corinthians, Juventude and Sao Caetano appeared safe bets for the last eight, while most other teams were simultaneously fighting for a place in the knockout stages and to avoid one of the four relegation places. With just a handful of games to play, only six points separated ninth-placed Vitoria from Botafogo of Rio, third from bottom of the 26-team League.

Once-great Flamengo are struggling a couple of places above Botafogo and the best they can hope for is avoiding relegation. Even that would be a bonus for a club that has been left in ruins through years of maladministration, culminating in president Edmundo Silva Santos being kicked out earlier this year.

Several other traditional clubs found themselves down the wrong end of the table, notably Cruzeiro, Vasco da Gama (champions in 1997 and 2000) and Palmeiras (South American champions in 1999).

Defending champions Atletico Paranaense, who led early on, also slid down the table, and two changes of coach failed to halt their decline. First, Valdir Espinosa was fired, then replacement Gilson Nunes was also kicked out after a 19-day stint in which the team drew two games and lost two. Next came Abel Braga, who had resigned twice as Botafogo coach in the previous four months. However, his first match ended with a 3-2 home defeat by Internacional.


Precocious talent...Diego

Angry Atletico fans spent the last half-hour with their backs to the pitch in protest. One group of supporters created a 'hotline', inviting fellow fans to phone in if they saw any Atletico players at a nightspot.

● Mario Zagallo, Brazil coach at three World Cups, has been called out of retirement to take charge of the national team for the friendly against South Korea in Seoul on November 20. It is a remarkable change of fortunes for Zagallo, 71, who left Flamengo last year.

Zagallo will lead the five-times world champions on an interim basis until a successor to Luiz Felipe Scolari is appointed in the new year.

Pro-file Fernando Cavenaghi

River Plate prodigy set to fight for Argentina striking role

AS GABRIEL BATISTUTA and Hernan Crespo fought their long battle to be Argentina's first-choice centre-forward, it was widely assumed that by the 2006 World Cup the post would belong to the younger man. But Crespo can take nothing for granted. By then he will be the senior citizen, fighting off the challenge of a new generation.

A leading contender stars for River Plate, where Crespo made his name six years ago. Fernando Cavenaghi's 15 goals in 19 games helped River to this year's closing championship title and put him top of the national scorers' chart. Like River predecessor, Javier Saviola, Cavenaghi achieved the feat before his 19th birthday; unlike Saviola, he went into the campaign with no guaranteed first-team place.

At the start of the year River signed Juan Esnaider and Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca, experienced international strikers who were expected to form the attack while Cavenaghi was groomed. But the youngster was not to be kept waiting. He had already sacrificed his beloved fast food on the advice of the club nutritionist and gained a new nickname: 'Fatboy' became 'Little Bull'. Such physical development was rewarded with promotion to the senior squad last year, and in his sporadic opportunities he responded with goals.

Then, as the 2002 closing championship got under way in February, he scored so often that Fonseca and Esnaider were hardly used. Particularly impressive was the quality of his finishing. Most of his goals were first-time efforts, either on rebounds from the keeper or on balls played across the box. He drilled home sharply off either foot, with minimum fuss and maximum efficiency.

A championship medal, though, does not make Cavenaghi the finished article. As with all players pitched in so young, the flaws in his game are there for all to see. When the chances do not fall his way his contribution can be limited. It is a defect he recognises. "I'm working to improve my use of the body when I receive the ball," he says, "and I'm also trying to develop my heading."

The capacity for improvement was evident during his glory campaign. Eight goals in the first four games made him a marked man, and he went nine barren matches. But, a more complete player, he bounced back to make sure of the title with seven goals in the final six games.

Cavenaghi will not always find life so easy. A knee injury on the opening day of the current campaign sidelined him for a month. But he was born with a gift for putting the ball in the back of the net, and in football that is no bad place to start.

Tim Vickery

Fact file

Club River Plate
Country Argentina
Born September 21, 1983, in General O'Brien, Buenos Aires
Honours Argentinian closing championship 2002

Flashpoint...River Plate fans go on the rampage after defeat by the 'old enemy', Boca Juniors

River blow up

The defending champions hit trouble on and off the pitch as Independiente close in on the title. Eric Weil reports

ARGENTINA

BANFIELD caused the upset of the opening championship by thrashing title challengers River Plate 5-0 in a game abandoned 24 minutes from time after River fans invaded the pitch.

The result stood, however, and the following week, River were in more trouble, beaten 2-1 at home by eternal rivals Boca Juniors. Again their fans battled with police, who used teargas and rubber bullets against them.

The two defeats meant that Independiente, winners of five successive games, had virtually sewn up the title. They were six points clear of Boca and River, who won the previous championship, with four rounds left.

The Boca-River derby was a fairly even contest, settled 13 minutes from the end by a terrific 20-yard drive by Marcelo Delgado that left goalkeeper Angel Comizzo rooted to the spot. Delgado had opened the scoring just before half-time, with new River acquisition Esteban Fuertes equalising seven minutes after the break.

Surprisingly little was seen of two of the tournament's best young players, River's Andres D'Alessandro and Boca's Carlos Tevez, playmakers of their respective teams. Could the difference have been that, in spite of playing away, Boca used a 3-2-2-3 formation against River's 4-3-1-2?

Over at Independiente, coach and former River player Americo Gallego warned: "Don't celebrate yet. We have a good chance, but there's still some way to go, and I never discount River although they seem to have given up."

There have been complaints, especially from River players, that referees were favouring Independiente. Rumours have also been circulating of an 'arrangement' between the club and promoted neighbours Arsenal. These stemmed from the game between the sides in October, when Independiente won 3-2 having been 2-0 down. Their equaliser came from a highly debatable penalty.

While Independiente are free-scoring – they have hit an impressive 42 goals in 15 games – and boast the League's top marksman in Andres Silvera (15 goals), their defence is suspect. Gallego recognises this but says it is inevitable given the team's playing style. "We will always have problems in defence because we go out to attack all the time," he asserts. "Look no further than Real Madrid, the best team in the world."

Whether Independiente win the title or not, Gallego has insisted he will leave Argentina at the end of the year, having become "sick and tired of the violence and insecurity in the country".

Rosario Central have dropped down the table after their good start and remain in relegation danger because of their poor points average over the past three seasons.

Nestor Gorosito has taken the reins at another relegation candidate, Nueva Chicago. It is the first coaching post for the former international midfielder, who enjoyed much success as a player with San Lorenzo and Chile's Universidad Catolica.

Fifth-placed San Lorenzo's 13-match unbeaten League and Cup run was ended by Ossie 'Ardiles' erratic Racing Club, who won 2-0 in the second leg of their Copa Sudamerica quarter-final. The tie finished 3-3 on aggregate, though San Lorenzo went into the semi-finals after penalties.

The recent trouble at River Plate matches suggests the new laws introduced to stiffen prison sentences for soccer hooligans have had little effect. Strangely, the most serious fighting between Boca and River fans after their derby game took place in Mendoza, more than 1,000 km from Buenos Aires. The Big Two have fanatical fans all over the country.

MEXICO

Best choice Lavolpe takes the reins

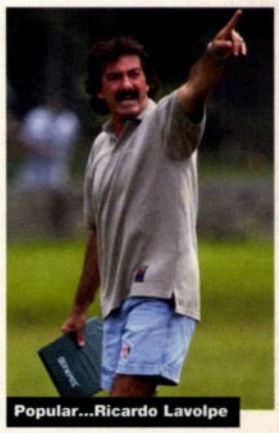
ARGENTINIAN Ricardo Lavolpe is the new national coach. The 50-year-old, who has lived in Mexico for 23 years, has signed a contract that runs until the 2006 World Cup.

Lavolpe seemed the best choice from the start of the lengthy process to find a successor to Javier Aguirre, who resigned after the World Cup finals. He is popular with fans and knows the Mexican club game well, having ended his playing career with Atlante before coaching some of its top sides.

The former Argentina goalkeeper gained some excellent results with the young side he developed at Atlas, leading them to the Libertadores Cup quarter-finals in 2000, while his most recent club side, Toluca, had the best record of all the top-flight sides as the opening championship campaign neared the end of the League phase.

Lavolpe's case was also helped by the high wage demands of two other candidates, compatriot Carlos Bianchi and Brazilian Felipao. The only real question mark over the new man is his relationship with the media, which has been none too friendly in the past.

In the League, only Toluca, America and Atletico Morelia have been showing any sort of consistency. Pumas UNAM typified the erratic form by beating Guadalajara 7-1 then going down 6-3 to San Luis next time out. Atlas, with Fernando Quirarte as their new coach, defeated Cruz Azul only to lose their next match to Tecos UAG, who in turn had been thrashed 6-0 by Toluca a week before.



Popular...Ricardo Lavolpe

Jose Cardozo, who hit two goals in that game, has taken his tally to a League record 21.

Carlos Ramirez

Ruiz scores to stifle the yawns

Paul Gardner sees Los Angeles Galaxy win a dull championship decider

UNITED STATES

THE 2002 season was always going to be a difficult one for MLS – for here was the World Cup being played in the middle of the season, and here was the national team whisking a bunch of stars away from their clubs to play in Korea.

The idea of suspending the League during the World Cup month was considered and quickly dismissed. MLS played on, and the final stats for the season suggest it made the right decision. For the second year in a row, MLS attendances were on the rise, up to an average of 15,822, the highest since the inaugural season, 1996, which had an average of 17,406.

Television ratings were so-so. As the season started there was genuine fear that ABC and its affiliate ESPN were going to pull the plug on MLS. Disaster threatened, especially as the League had already lost its weekly game on the Spanish-language Telemundo channel. The crisis was averted when MLS formed a new marketing company, Soccer United Marketing (SUM), and bought up the North American English-language rights to the World Cup. A sweetheart deal was worked out with ABC/ESPN for the rights to televise World Cup games – and the *quid pro quo* was that ABC/ESPN would continue its coverage of MLS over the next four seasons.

SUM is backed by MLS investors, meaning that its motivating force is Philip Anschutz, who already owns six of MLS's 10 teams. SUM's agreement with ABC/ESPN includes the next four seasons.

The success of the USA in Korea led to high ratings – 3.77 million households watched the team's quarter-final against Germany – and these in turn led to a significant jump in MLS viewing figures: from a pre-World Cup average of 134,000 households to over 162,000.

On the field, interest in the regular season was maintained right up until the final moments, when, with a week to go, all 10 teams were still in contention for the eight play-off spots. When the axe fell, DC United, three-times champions, and the New York/New Jersey MetroStars failed to make the cut.

MetroStars fell apart badly. With three weeks left, they seemed set to win the Eastern Conference. Then the losses started to pile up. Even so, they needed just one point from their last three games, but lost all of them.

The collapse cost coach Octavio Zambrano his job. Possibly his case was not helped when he publicly criticised key player Clint Mathis. But Zambrano had a point. Before the World Cup, Mathis had been hailed as a superstar. A move to Bayern Munich was supposed to be imminent, while scouts from Parma were attending MetroStars games.

But national team coach Bruce Arena found Mathis' training commitment less than ideal, and did not use him in all of the USA's games. On his return home, Mathis' displays for the MetroStars were lacklustre. No longer was there any talk of a move overseas. Interest had dried up. Zambrano suggested Mathis needed to see a sports psychologist.

At the season's end Zambrano was replaced by Chicago Fire coach Bob Bradley. Dave Sarachan, an assistant of Arena, took the vacant Chicago job.

Zambrano's exit means MLS now has no Hispanic coaches. Earlier in the season New England Revolution fired Fernando Clavijo with the team in last place. His replacement, former Liverpool and Scotland defender Steve Nicol, proceeded to guide them all the way to the Final.

The best-of-three quarter-final play-off series was the highlight of the MLS season, featuring attacking soccer with an average of over 3.5 goals a game. But just as the soccer reached the peak of its excitement, attendances started to dip. The result, it was judged, of teams having very little time to promote the games. A further negative factor was that only one of the 16 play-off games was live on national TV.

The Final itself, between Los Angeles Galaxy (losers in three previous Finals) and Cinderella team Revolution promised great things, not least because the previously selected venue happened to be the Revs' home field, the new state-of-the-art Gillette stadium in Foxboro, Massachusetts. A sell-out crowd seemed quite likely. There was also the intriguing ingredient of a Final within a Final, with the last round of the season-long battle between Revs' Taylor Twellman and Galaxy's Carlos Ruiz. Twellman had won the MLS scoring title (with 23 goals and 6 assists), but Ruiz had scored more goals (24) and had won the Most Valuable Player award. One man, at least, was going to be happy whatever the result – Anschutz, who owns both finalists.

Champions...Galaxy celebrate victory in a Final that did the MLS cause no good at all

The day of the Final dawned with perfect sunny autumn weather, over 61,000 fans showed up (breaking the previous MLS Cup record of 57,431 set in 1997) and everything was set for a memorable game.

Anything but. The warning signs had been there during the semi-finals, when the goals-per-game average suddenly shrank to a measly 2.2; and again at the teams' training sessions on the day before the Final, when the talk was all of who would mark whom, and what could be done to shut down Twellman and Ruiz.

Both coaches denied any intent to be defensive. Nicol would admit only that the Revs defended well "when we have to"; Galaxy's Sigi Schmid assured the media his team defended only to win the ball so that they could go on the attack. And so the Revs v Galaxy game set another record – the first Final to end the regulation 90 minutes without a goal. There was very little excitement at all; the two defences had simply squeezed the life out of the game.

The agony lasted into the second extra-time period. With the final indecency of penalties looming, the Revs got caught by a sudden Galaxy counter-attack, and Ruiz scampered forward to slot the ball home.

Nicol gave the best post-game quote. Asked for the reasoning behind a substitution, he began: "Well, there wasn't a great deal happening, both defences were on top..."

So MLS's climactic game, live on ABC, had produced exactly the sort of bore guaranteed to produce a loud chorus of tut-tuts and told-you-sos from soccer's many American critics. The television figures slipped from the 2001 MLS Cup rating of 1,031,000 households to 845,000.

A few hours later, Game 2 of the baseball World Series was on television. No lack of scoring here, it finished Anaheim Angels 11 San Francisco Giants 10, and was watched by 12,734,000 households. A tart reminder of just how far soccer has to travel in the USA.

Egypt to host 2006 Nations Cup

...but a battle is looming over whether the finals should double as World Cup qualifiers. Mark Gleeson reports

EGYPT proved easy winners of what was expected to be a much tougher bidding race for the right to host the 2006 African Nations Cup finals.

The Confederation of African Football's executive committee gave Egypt seven votes in the first round of polling in Cairo, five more than second-placed Libya. Both Algeria and Ivory Coast, beset with civil strife, received just one vote each as CAF rejected taking a chance that their internal situations might improve in years to come.

Celebration on hold...South Africa face a dearth of games

In recent years, CAF has found it difficult to find suitable candidates to host the biennial championship, but there was no such problem with the 2006 event after it was decided last January that the finals would also serve as the qualifying tournament for the 2006 World Cup. However, there is now mounting opposition to the plan. African soccer leaders have belatedly woken up to the fact that by agreeing to allow the Nations Cup finals to have this dual purpose, there would be far fewer games, a situation that could cost national associations millions in gate receipts and TV revenue.

The decision to make the finals dual purpose was taken without objection at the last CAF Congress in Bamako, Mali. Confederation executive committee members argued that the plan would cut down on fixture congestion and problems with the call-up of Europe-based players. But now countries like Algeria, Ghana and South Africa have realised that they could play a maximum of just two competitive matches over a two-year period between 2004 and 2006 as they seek to qualify for Egypt 2006. In the current Nations Cup qualifiers, the trio are competing in three-team groups and have just two home qualifiers. The same could happen in the 2006 qualifiers, so they would face a major drought of matches.

Those against the doubling-up idea have found an unlikely ally in FIFA president Sepp Blatter. His aides are suggesting that he will cancel CAF's plans and institute a separate World Cup qualifying campaign for Africa. This would be another snub for CAF president Issa Hayatou, who lost out to Blatter in a landslide decision in the FIFA presidential election in May.

In the months since the FIFA vote, Hayatou has removed all the Blatterites from positions of power within CAF, while the FIFA president has dropped all Hayatou's supporters from the new FIFA standing committees, inviting his own African supporters to serve instead.

Reverting back to separate qualifying competitions, which would have to run simultaneously, would give countries more matches. But CAF's argument about fixture congestion has lost force in recent months after South America decided to keep their 10-team group for the 2006 World Cup qualifiers. This will involve them playing 18 ties, as during the campaign to reach Korea/Japan, patently ignoring the new co-ordinated international fixture calendar.

Television rights played the major role in South America's decision, and now the Africans want to be able to have a slice of their own cake, too, particularly if the Latin Americans are not going to pay any heed to the calendar.

● There have been only two rounds of 2004 African Nations Cup qualifiers so far, but already one of the major contenders are in a spot of bother. Egypt, who have won the tournament a record-equalling four times, watched on anxiously as Madagascar won a second match in their group, by beating Mauritius 1-0 away in mid-October. In September, the Egyptians suffered a shock defeat to the Malagasy side by the same score.

With only one team certain to qualify for the finals from the group, Egypt must now win all three of their remaining games to give themselves a good chance of finishing top.

Elsewhere, tiny Gambia registered their biggest ever international win with a 6-0 thrashing of Lesotho in Banjul, Morocco scored five against Equatorial Guinea, and Ghana won 4-2 against Rwanda, coming back to form after losing to Uganda in September. Congo scored the biggest away win, triumphing 3-0 in Mozambique, a result that precipitated the departure of home side coach Augusto Matine after two years in charge.

Newcastle's Lomana Tresor Lua Lua scored and was then sent off as the Democratic Republic of Congo beat Botswana 2-0 in Kinshasa, while Zimbabwe's Peter Ndlovu, also based in England, with Sheffield United, scored as his side made it two wins out of two, this time away to Eritrea. Zimbabwe have never qualified for the finals.

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Zamalek oust Esperance

A DIVING header from defender Mehdat Abdelhadi secured a place for Egyptian club Zamalek in the African Champions League semi-finals. His goal, the only one of the tempestuous final group game against Esperance of Tunisia in Cairo, meant Zamalek finished top of Group B and set up a mouth-watering clash with TP Mazembe Englebert of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Egyptians' win also meant the much-fancied Esperance were out of the competition, setting off a mini-riot as groups of rival fans traded stones and bottles in the stands. The trouble was witnessed by FIFA president Sepp Blatter and UEFA president Lennart Johansson, who both attended the match. They were in Cairo for the opening of the Confederation of African Football's new headquarters.

Esperance, who had to win to reach the last four for the fourth year running, were unusually cautious until the last 20 minutes, when they pushed forward. But the closest they came to scoring was when Khaled Badra headed against a post late on.

Heading on...Zamalek and ASEC

Ivorian side ASEC Abidjan made sure of the runners-up berth in Group B by beating Costa do Sol of Mozambique 2-0 away in Maputo. This set up a meeting with Group A winners Raja Casablanca of Morocco in the other semi-final, and meant Costa do Sol became the first team in the six-year history of the Champions League to finish without a point.

Raja, already assured of taking top spot before their final game, still secured a point in a thrilling 3-3 draw at Al Ahly of Egypt. Last year, Al Ahly won the Champions League, but this year won just a single group match.

Mark Gleeson

Round-up

Porterfield sues for wrongful dismissal

Court action...Ian Porterfield

FORMER Chelsea manager Ian Porterfield has instituted court action in **GHANA** against African Cup-winners Cup finalists Asante Kotoko after the club fired him in September. Porterfield is suing for breach of contract and wrongful dismissal.

Elsewhere in **WEST AFRICA**, Dragons l'Oueme are the champions in **BENIN**, but took the title only on goal difference from Requins Atlantique.

ASFA Yennega won the League in **BURKINA FASO** by five points from army team USFA. Defender Soumailia Tassembedo from Etoile Filante has been named as the country's Footballer of the Year. The teenager is captain of Burkina Faso's Under-20 side.

CENTRAL AFRICA

Canon Yaounde are the champions in **CAMEROON**, reviving memories of their halcyon days of the 1980s.

St Eloi Lupopo won the League in the **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**, finishing two points ahead of TP Mazembe Englebert. US Kenya won the national Cup by beating SM Sanga Balende 2-1 in the Final. Daring Club Motema Pembe won the League Cup, beating Inter 1-0 in the decider.

In **CONGO**, CS La Mancha won the Cup Final 2-1 against AS Police.

EAST AFRICA

KENYA won the annual four-nation tournament in Tanzania, defeating Uganda on penalties after a 1-1 draw in the Final. South Africa also needed a post-match shoot-out to clinch third place, ahead of the host nation.

St Louisienne retained the League title on **REUNION**, the 11th in the club's history, by beating St Pierroise 2-1 in their last match. They then went on to clinch the Double by beating the same team in the Cup Final by the same score.

AS Adema are the champions in **MADAGASCAR**, while SC Villa did the League and Cup double in **UGANDA**, beating Express in the Cup Final.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Two former Mozambican national coaches, Viktor Bondarenko and Arnaldo Salvado, are among four early managerial casualties of the new **SOUTH AFRICAN** soccer season. They were fired by Mamelodi Sundowns and Black Leopards respectively. Bondarenko's departure came despite Sundowns topping the Premier League after two months of competition.

Goalkeeper Muzondiwa Gonese of **ZIMBABWEAN** Premier League club Masvingo United has been banned from football for life after an assault on a referee in September. Gonese attacked Philip Kawara with a flying double-footed lunge during a Cup semi-final against AmaZulu after a penalty was awarded against him. Masvingo striker Lloyd Hlahla, who also attacked the referee, was suspended indefinitely, with a review of the decision to be made at the end of the 2004 season. Masvingo were kicked out of the Cup competition.

Ferroviario Maputo are champions in **MOZAMBIQUE**, finishing four points ahead of second-placed Maxaquene. At the bottom, Migracao failed to win a single game.

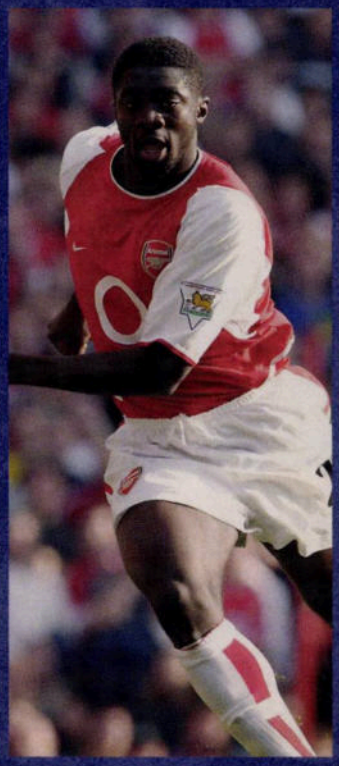
NORTH AFRICA

Ex-**EGYPTIAN** international Ossama Nabih scored the winner as Zamalek beat Arab Contractors in extra-time to win the Super Cup. German Rainer Zobel has returned to the country to coach Al Ittihad of Alexandria.

Mark Gleeson

Pro-file Kolo Toure

Versatile Ivorian proving a supersub for Arsenal



IVORY COAST utility player Kolo Toure has made a spectacular breakthrough with Arsenal this term, and his manager, Arsene Wenger, has two fellow Frenchmen to thank.

Toure was coached as a youngster at a soccer school set up in the Ivorian capital Abidjan by former French international midfielder Jean-Marc Guillou. It was another close friend of Wenger, ex-Alsatian journalist and Olympique Marseille commercial director Roland Scheubel, who first spotted Toure's potential as a 12-year-old and informed Wenger.

Scheubel's eyes had not deceived him. Toure joined top Ivorian side ASEC Abidjan, was a full international by the age of 19, and grabbed his chance at Arsenal last season when given a trial. Wenger paid ASEC a fee thought to be in the region of £150,000 and handed the youngster a three-year contract.

"Now I'm at such a famous club as Arsenal I couldn't be happier," said Toure shortly after arriving in London. "I feel I'm part of a very special club, where they play good football. It will not be easy to make it here as there are so many great players around, but I don't think I could be at a better club to learn and develop."

After overcoming a back problem, Toure was ready to make a contribution to the Arsenal first team by the start of this season. He came off the bench to good effect in a number of Premiership games, notably the 1-1 draw against Chelsea in September, when he scored Arsenal's equaliser. The goal perfectly encapsulated his all-action style. A determined burst into opposition territory, a pass wide to Ashley Cole, and when, moments later, Sylvain Wiltord's volley was palmed out by Chelsea keeper Carlo Cudicini, Toure was there to head in.

The Ivorian is very effective breaking forward, is pacy and strong, and also has the ability to quickly pick up the rhythm of a game after appearing as a substitute. But perhaps versatility is his key asset, being able to play in central defence, at right-back or in any number of midfield roles. He says his favourite position is just in front of the back four. However, with Patrick Vieira and Gilberto Silva ensconced there, Toure will have to look elsewhere for a niche, possibly at right-back, where he could push Lauren all the way for a regular start.

One of Wenger's star pupils at Monaco in the late 1980s and early 1990s was flying Ivorian left-winger Youssouff Fofana. Expect the Arsenal boss to bring the best out of his latest Ivorian recruit too.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Arsenal (Eng)
Country Ivory Coast
Born March 19, 1981, in Abidjan
Previous club ASEC Abidjan
International debut April 2000, v Rwanda
International caps 17 (1 goal)

Iran strike gold again

Michael Church reviews the Asian Games football tournament

Road to glory...Iran on target against Japan in the Final

IRAN became the first nation to successfully defend the Asian Games title in over 30 years when Branco Ivancovic's side defeated Japan 2-1 in the Final in Busan, South Korea.

But while the victory represented Iran's third success in four tournaments, and a record fourth in total, Japan, under Masakuni Yamamoto, are most likely to emerge as the winners in the long run.

Under new age restrictions brought in by the Asian Football Confederation, the 24 entrants fielded Under-23 sides, with a maximum of three overage players allowed per team. With the idea of preparing for the Olympic Games, which has similar restrictions, the AFC successfully implemented the rule change four years after an attempt was thwarted by the Olympic Council of Asia, under whose remit the multi-sport event falls.

All but two nations pushed the rules to the limit, with only Japan and China taking a longer-term view, using the tournament as an opportunity to prepare properly for Asia's Olympic qualifiers, which kick off next year.

Both countries sent squads made up exclusively of players aged 21 or younger; essentially players who will not be exempt from the Olympic qualifying tournament. Ironically, the pair met in the quarter-finals, with Japan winning through thanks to a solitary goal from Satoshi Nakayama. Yamamoto's youngsters then saw off Thailand, in their second successive Asian Games semi-final, to set up the showdown with Iran.

The Iranians had chalked up one of the tournament's biggest wins, a 10-0 thrashing of Afghanistan – appearing on the international scene for the first time in 18 years – on the way to the knockout stages, where they beat Kuwait and the hosts.

They did so without the services of veteran striker Ali Daei, who was forced to return to Tehran following the death of his father. In fact, it turned out to be a month of misfortune for the former Bayern Munich striker, who also tore knee ligaments while playing for Dubai's Al Shabab against Al Jazeira, sidelining him for up to two months.

But the towering Daei's services were not required as Iran put Japan to the sword. Javad Kazemeyan and Mohsen Bayatiniya struck in the second half and although Nakayama pulled a goal back, Ivancovic's side held on comfortably.

"Iran loves football and the people are very sensitive to results," said the Croatian coach. "The team's failure to reach the last World Cup [they lost to the Republic of Ireland in the play-offs] was felt as a huge disappointment throughout the country. Our win will create more enthusiasm for the team, and interest will rise."

The Games were not without controversy. AFC general secretary Peter Velappan publicly lambasted the Korean fans for their lack of interest in the tournament, especially in light of the hysteria that greeted the nation's progress to the World Cup semi-finals.

Near-empty stadia greeted many of the ties, including those involving the hosts. "The Red Devils are either asleep or have lost their energy and excitement for football all of a sudden," said Velappan, referring to the nickname for Korea's fans. "We have the best young footballers from Asia in this competition and I am surprised that the Korean fans are not backing it after the passion they showed at the World Cup."

There was further disappointment when Korea failed to qualify for the Final, missing out on a showdown with the Japanese by losing to Iran in a penalty shoot-out. And although Park Hang-seo's team secured the bronze medal by defeating Thailand, it was not enough to safeguard the job of Guus Hiddink's replacement, who was fired soon afterwards.

Korea's defeat also significantly damaged any hopes of a sell-out for the Final. With the hosts eliminated, the organisers were bombarded with requests for Final ticket refunds.

Asian round-up

Injured Troussier opts out of China job...for now

FORMER Japan boss Philippe Troussier has ruled himself out of the immediate running to succeed Bora Milutinovic at the helm of the **CHINESE** national team.

The Frenchman was approached by the Chinese FA to take the job but was forced to turn it down because of a lingering knee injury.

Troussier recently underwent surgery and is recuperating at his home in Morocco. As a result he will not be available to fill any position until the New Year. "However, if the CFA are willing to wait, I will definitely reconsider," he says.

SOUTH KOREAN World Cup star Hong Myung-bo has joined MLS champions Los Angeles Galaxy from former Asian champions Pohang Steelers.

South Korea won their 10th Asian Under-20s title after a golden goal from Jung Jo-gook, the only score of the Final against Japan in Qatar. Both nations, along with third-placed Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan, who finished fourth, qualify for next year's World Youth Championship.

Dutchman Johan Boskamp became the first coaching casualty of the **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES'** League season after being sacked by Al Wasl following his team's poor start.

Selangor won the **MALAYSIAN** Cup for a record 29th time with a 1-0 victory over Sabah in the Final to end a six-year drought for the nation's best-supported team.

Armed Forces won the **SINGAPORE** League by an incredible 20 points and immediately made moves to keep star Therdsak Chaiman. The Thailand midfielder, who joined on loan from Bangkok's BEC Tero Sasana at the start of the season, was named the S-League's Player of the Year.

Gombak United have pulled out of the S-League for next season because of financial constraints, and two other clubs – Balestier Central and Clementi Khalsa – have announced they will merge.

Recuperating...Troussier

Nicolas Hadwa, a Chilean of Arab origin, has been engaged to manage **PALESTINE'S** national team. Hadwa has coached several Second Division teams in his homeland.

Englishman Stephen Constantine has been handed a three-year contract to lead the **INDIAN** national team after impressing the FA with his performance over the first four months of his tenure.

East Bengal lifted the Independence Cup after beating three-times winners Oil India Limited 2-0 in a scrappy Final.

Michael Church, Azam Mahmood, G C Das & Eric Weil

Zico's debut ends in draw

JAPAN

THE national team made their much-awaited debut under Brazilian coach Zico in mid-October, drawing 1-1 with Jamaica in a Tokyo friendly. The atmosphere in the stadium showed World Cup fever remains, but the team looked very different from that of Zico's predecessor, Philippe Troussier, despite familiar faces. Gone was the Frenchman's tightly drilled 3-5-2 formation; in its place a Brazilian-style 4-4-2, with almost total freedom for the midfield.

Zico said: "I don't tell them how to move. I want them to communicate among themselves. I ask the players where they want to play and put them in their easiest positions."

The four Europe-based midfielders – Hidetoshi Nakata, Shinji Ono, Junichi Inamoto and Shunsuke Nakamura – rose bravely to the challenge, and Ono gave Japan a seventh-minute lead. But the free-flowing system often caught the back line flat-footed.

Zico had recalled Kashima Antlers veterans Akira Narahashi and Yutaka Akita alongside Naoki Matsuda and Toshihiro Hattori in defence, but the new-look rearguard certainly needs more time to gel. Fabian Fuller's 80th-minute equaliser was no less than Jamaica deserved.

Free-flowing...Hidetoshi Nakata

In the J.League, Jubilo Iwata are on course to become the first team to win both season stages. With four games remaining, they held a three-point lead over Gamba Osaka.

Yokohama F Marinos have been the biggest disappointment of the Second Stage. The rot started with the transfer of Nakamura to Reggina. Coach Sebastiao Lazaroni was sacked as the team languished in mid-table, and now Brazilian striker Will has also been fired after kicking team-mate Daisuke Oku during a game.

Consadole Sapporo are already certain to go down.

Mike Plastow & Yumiko Nagae

OCEANIA

All Whites suffer double defeat

ON THE evidence of **NEW ZEALAND'S** short European tour, they have a lot of work to do if they are to make any impact at the Confederations Cup next year. The All Whites lost both games, 3-2 to Estonia and 2-0 to Poland.

The visitors had led 2-1 at half-time in Tallinn, only to throw the game away through slack marking.

Four days later, in provincial Ostrowiec Swietokrzyski, Poland dominated, and only tenacious Kiwi defending kept the scoreline respectable. Centre-back Danny Hay, back on international duty after a long absence, was New Zealand's most impressive performer.

In **AUSTRALIA**, last season's losing Grand Finalists Perth Glory led the table by a point from champions Sydney Olympic after seven rounds. Glory have strengthened their squad by re-signing 20-year-old midfielder Adrian Caceres after three years in England and buying German linkman Andre Gumprecht.

Early surprise side Adelaide City, four points off the top but with a game in hand, have been boosted by the signing of ex-South Melbourne favourite Goran Lozanovski from Alemannia Aachen in Germany.

Nadi beat holders Rewa on penalties after a 1-1 draw to claim their sixth triumph in **FIJI'S** Inter Districts Championship, the country's oldest and most prestigious tournament.

Paul Moon

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Boastful...Roy Keane

Keane for Italy?

Step aside Cantona, move over Maradona, take a hike Edmundo. Enter Roy Keane, the true madman of football. Did it really take a boastful autobiography for the world to know that his blatant foul on Alf-Inge Haaland was worthy of a criminal prosecution?

After all, when he did something similar to Gustavo Poyet the year before in the Charity Shield he clearly wasn't going for the ball. Remember his lunge at Alan Shearer and, as I got to discover from a newspaper, his stomping at Gareth Southgate?

Perhaps Keane should take his bullying tactics to Serie A, where I am sure he will meet more than his match from the likes of Christian Vieri, Christian Panucci, Paolo Montero and Fernando Couto.

Peter Jite Asagba, by e-mail

Gavin Hamilton replies: It's probably too late in Keane's career for him to consider a move abroad, although I suspect he would thrive in the disciplined atmosphere of Serie A.

England fans are still far from blameless

I am delighted that something is being attempted to rid the game of racism. But how can the English FA take the moral high ground?

Surely it has forgotten about the World Cups in 1982, 1990 and 1998, the European Championships of 1988, 1992, 1996 (even as hosts) and 2000. The only tournaments when there hasn't been trouble were in 1984, 1986, 1994 and 2002. Is it just coincidence that of those four tournaments, England didn't qualify for two and the other two were thousands of miles away?

So after a peaceful World Cup in 2002, does the FA really believe England fans have changed? In Slovakia, they were heard quite clearly booing the hosts' national anthem and singing 'No Surrender' during 'God Save the Queen'.

Lee McLoughlin, Bermondsey, London

Gavin Hamilton replies: To be fair to the FA, they have done more than most organisations to highlight racism and try to combat it. But the FA's spin doctors made a bad error of judgment when they tried to suggest that England followers had clashed with the Slovakians in protest at the racist booing of England's black players.

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ACROSS

1 Paraguayan midfielder who joined Reggina from Porto this summer (7)
7 Italy defender Inter picked up from Fiorentina (5)
8 Ghanaian city where soccer riots caused carnage in 2001 (5)
9 Czech city in which the Bazaly stadium is situated (7)
10 Young Italian striker recruited by Middlesbrough from Empoli (9)
15 Olimpia defender in Paraguay's 2002 World Cup squad (7)
18 Uruguayan World Cup forward in Mexico with Cruz Azul (5)
19 Heerenveen and Sweden left-back (5)
20 Gamba Osaka star on loan in England with Fulham (7)

DOWN

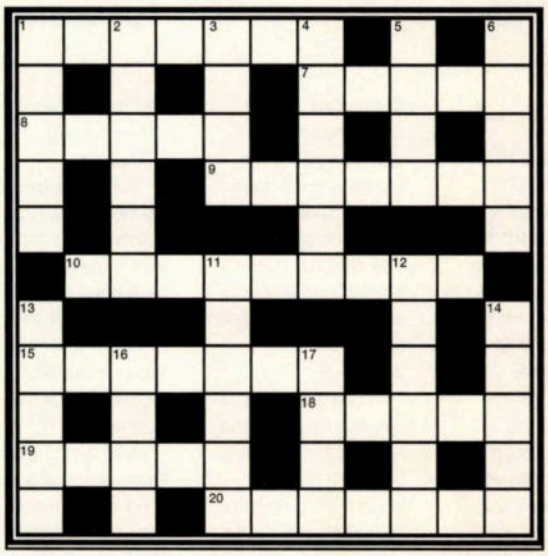
1 Ex-England midfielder now in charge of the Under-21 side (5)
2 Uruguayan international forward popularly known as 'El Chino' (6)
3 Former Sedan midfielder of Liverpool and Senegal (4)
4 Defender transferred this year from Parma to Roma (6)
5 Austrian coach currently in charge at Hamburg (4)
6 Czech midfielder who left Hannover for Leverkusen (5)
11 Uruguay goalkeeper loaned by Juventus to Standard Liege (6)
12 Everton's Ghanaian misfit temporarily at PSG (6)
13 Defender who switched from Lille to Marseille in 2002 (5)
14 Maritimo midfield stalwart sold on to Porto (5)
16 Italian club back in Serie A after a 13-year absence (4)
17 Forward signed by Boavista from Lamego (4)

OCTOBER SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Luccin, 3 Song, 7 Costa Rica, 9 Olic, 10 Solari, 12 Boksic, 13 Sarr, 16 Vitor Baia, 17 Arca, 18 Mpenza.
DOWN: 1 Lucio, 2 Iwan, 4 Ogasawara, 5 Gabsi, 6 Tirol, 8 Sliskovic, 11 Witte, 12 Badra, 14 Rzasa, 15 Grip.

OCTOBER WINNERS

1st prize: Stuart Walsh, Lancs.
5 runners-up: Maggio Andrea, Trieste, Italy; Sean McGeever, San Francisco, USA; Rosenberg Slava, Israel; Paul Hutt, Bucks; Emilio Gomez Alvarez, Vigo, Spain.



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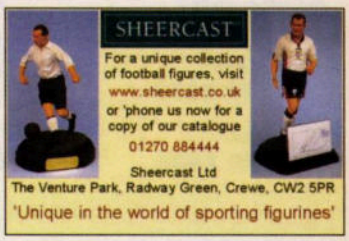

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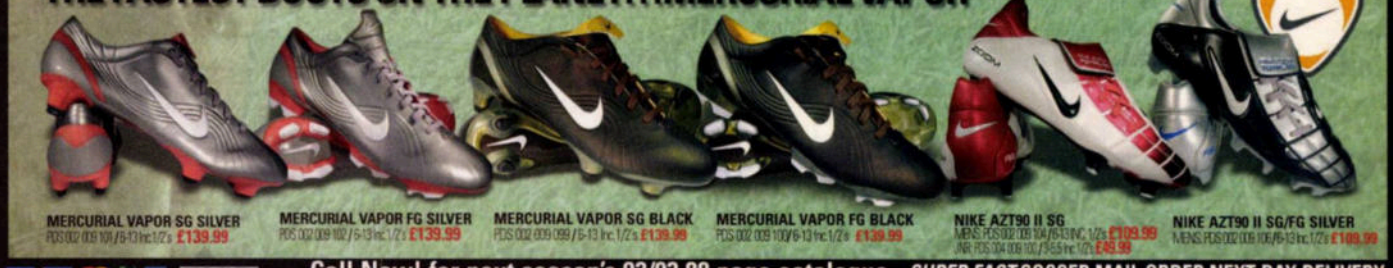

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Brian Glanville's LAST WORD

The way out?...Eriksson and the England management team had an uncomfortable night in Slovakia

Time's up for Sven and Trap

'TRAP' and Eriksson. Busted flushes both, but where the manager of Italy is obviously doomed, may even have gone by the time you read this, and should plainly have gone immediately after a disastrous World Cup, Eriksson remains and will presumably continue to do so; unless an offer from some foreign club allows him to beat a diplomatic retreat.

As an international manager, Eriksson has surely been badly exposed. Not because of his truly reckless 'romantic' life, which baffles comprehension (publicity-seeking masochists are hardly the safest partners), but because of the manifold errors of judgment he has made with the England team. Over Steve McManaman. Over Joe Cole. Over the desperately dire last half-hour performance against Brazil in Japan. Above all, over England's truly wretched displays against Slovakia and Macedonia in the Euro 2004 qualifiers.

The omission of McManaman from the World Cup squad still seems monumentally perverse, not least because there was never any chance that David Beckham, filling the role in which McManaman plays best, would be fully fit.

This season, dropping Cole, who could surely have been 'risked' in the latter stages of the Brazil match, from the senior squad was psychologically inept. The last thing to do with perhaps the only young English player of the moment with the potential to be a post-Gascoigne playmaker.

All this compounded by the bizarre decision to leave Alan Smith out in Bratislava until the 90th minute when he had done so well and scored the English goal in the 1-1 friendly draw with Portugal in September.

Persevering with the plainly vulnerable David Seaman was dicing with death, and the abysmal consequences ensued in Southampton (though it's legitimate to ask why Paul Scholes ducked rather than jumped on the goal line). Deploying the Saints' left-back, Wayne Bridges, as a left-sided midfielder that evening, albeit on his home pitch, was a senseless gamble.

That wonderful win in Munich is a fading memory now; and even there, it's arguable that England could and should have been 2-0 down rather than 1-0 before they scored. Not to mention the tactical chopping and changing – successful in Bratislava after a sustained humiliating period, changed again in Southampton. This surely is an international manager who has lost his way. And again, I am talking specifically of football.

And Trapattoni? He is someone I have known and hugely liked since I met him in Rome's Olympic Village in 1960 when he was left-half in an Italy Under-21 team masquerading as amateur and gallantly held to a 2-2 draw by Great Britain.

As a player, he was sturdily effective, renowned for having played Pele out of the game in an international at San Siro. As a manager, his career has been festooned with laurels, a string of Italian championships with Juventus, another with Inter, still one more in the Bundesliga with Bayern Munich. The only blot on the escutcheon being a spell in Sardinia with Cagliari, from where he departed shortly before they were relegated.

> 'Eriksson has been badly exposed as an international manager...and why the Italian federation did not sack Trapattoni after a string of poor results was inexplicable'

Defiant...Trapattoni

But when you appoint Trap you surely must know what you are getting. A dyed-in-the-wool defensive coach brought up on *catenaccio* as player and manager.

That he has, in tune – more or less – with the times, experimented with other formations (4-4-2, 3-5-2) is irrelevant. His own players, notably Alex Del Piero, Bobo Vieri and keeper Francesco Toldo, criticised him after the World Cup for his negativity. In response, Trapattoni reminded Vieri of his appalling right-footed miss against South Korea.

The fact is, however, that Italy failed wretchedly, and it seemed inevitable Trapattoni would go. Instead, he stayed, to the wonder and outrage of the Italian media and fans.

That he refused to resign, and did so again this season after a string of poor results, culminating in the 2-1 defeat by Wales, was perhaps excusable. That the Italian federation didn't sack him was inexplicable. After all, look what happened after the 1998 World Cup to Cesare Maldini. True, he could be impugned for his stubborn preference of the out-of-form Del Piero over the dazzling Roberto Baggio. Yet he took Italy to the quarter-finals, where they lost only on penalties in Paris to the eventual winners, France. And out he went.

Abysmal this season against Slovenia (1-0 losers in Trieste), mediocre in Baku (2-0 winners against Azerbaijan), manifestly still demoralised in Naples against Yugoslavia (1-1), equally so in Cardiff, this was a team in a state of despair.

Alessandro Nesta has, however expensively sold by Lazio to Milan, not looked the same since his disastrous day in the last Roman derby when his team lost 5-1 and he walked off the field in dismay. Yet Trap kept picking him, and the coach's reward was the pathetic goal that Nesta gave away against Yugoslavia, allowing the veteran Predrag Mijatovic to stroll past him from the left and curl his shot past Gianluigi Buffon into the far corner.

At the press conference after the Wales game, Trap insisted that he had no intention of resigning. A hiatus followed. It was rumoured that Dino Zoff, who, heaven knows, should never have resigned simply because of the vulgar abuse of Silvio Berlusconi when he'd all but won Euro 2000, was the only man in line to take over. The big wheels of Italian football – Lippi, Capello and co – don't want the job. And under Franco Carraro, once president of Milan then of the governing sports body CONI, the indecision of the federation seems final.

FA lost to the marketing men

THERE is somebody called Paul Barber at the Football Association, riven and ravaged at the moment by its bitter battles with the Premiership. He is described as being in charge of marketing and communications. Eh? One or the other, surely. Marketing men exist to flog commodities, whether they be baked beans or motor cars. Communications should, by rights, refer to relations with the media, which ideally should be as objective as possible rather than designed to flog the product.

Yet here is Mr Barber declaring after the England results in Slovakia and against Macedonia in Southampton that they have made "a solid start" to the Euro 2004 qualifying campaign.

You long for a John McEnroe to shout in his silly face: "You cannot be serious!" Does Barber regard the media and general public with total contempt? What else but the profoundest ignorance of football could explain so demented a statement?

But then the FA, during the reign of recently resigned chief executive Adam Crozier, seems to have been a haven for marketing men. During an astonishingly careless and ill-judged speech to the Lancing Old Boys club last year, Crozier betrayed one secret after another and has referred to the FA when he took over as "a shambles". Well, what is it now, with its bewildering series of blunders over the image rights of the England team, the "lost" documents, the stand-off with the Premiership?

It surprised me when Crozier was appointed after it emerged that, as an advertising man at the *Daily Telegraph*, he had massaged his figures, though he was pardoned at the time. The information had percolated through to the FA only from outside sources after Crozier had thrown his hat into the ring. Yet they still appointed him.

That the Premiership were to gain overall control of the professional game in England would in the past have seemed a disaster to me. But the FA long ago, under the palsied aegis of Graham Kelly, sold the pass by joining forces with the major clubs to push out the Football League and form the Premier division.

For donkeys' years the remit of the FA was to hold the ring, to see to the greater good of all of our football. Not now. Not for a long time. And with the FA more and more commercially involved, not to mention grotesquely expanding the payroll at Soho Square (a most ill-considered move), those days are gone for ever.

Conflicting roles...Paul Barber

All over the place...Ljungberg (right) kept cluttering up the middle v Auxerre

Prosaic Arsenal pay the price

WHEN Arsene Wenger speculated on his Arsenal team going through the season unbeaten, he was plainly offering hostages to fortune. And so it proved. They were beaten at Everton with that superb goal by the wonderfully precocious Wayne Rooney, then three days later beaten at Highbury by modest Auxerre in the Champions League.

Crucially, Dennis Bergkamp played in neither game. He still seems to me the man who makes the wheels turn round, who can suddenly do the supremely unexpected.

"Ball players are important," George Raynor once said to me when Lazio manager, "because they can create unorthodox situations." Precisely what Bergkamp so elegantly and inventively does, even though his position is a good deal more advanced than that of the traditional playmaker, a function discouraged by a club that once excelled in it, since George Graham's days.

After the 2-1 defeat by Auxerre, we once again heard how tired the Arsenal players were, which seemed no better an excuse than usual. Tactically, the team was all over the place. Right-footed Freddie Ljungberg, who has often adapted so effectively to playing on the left, perpetually kept moving into the middle, thus cluttering it up. Meanwhile, only very occasionally did Thierry Henry move out to the left, leaving Ashley Cole with a heavy overlapping burden.

David Seaman was blamed in some quarters for both Auxerre goals, on the back of his dismal mistake against Macedonia in Southampton, but I thought it unfair. The first came from a magnificent curling left-footer which may well have left him unsighted, and at least he got a hand to it. The second was something of a freak, the ball deflecting off Cole to put Senegal's Khalilou Fadiga through alone. Perhaps Seaman was a fraction late in coming off his line as Fadiga leaped to play the ball over him, but in fact he was seriously exposed by that ricochet.

With two of Henry's compatriots, Patrick Vieira and Sylvain Wiltord, so recently in devastating form for France against Slovenia, this was a truly prosaic Arsenal. Wenger could hardly explain it away.

December 1968

THIRTY-FOUR years ago, Eric Batty opened his account of the 1968 World Club Championship in no uncertain terms. "It has come and gone and done nothing to improve the standing of modern football," he wrote.

Batty had been at Old Trafford for the second of Manchester United's encounters with South American club champions Estudiantes. The Argentinians had won their home leg 1-0 and took an early lead in Manchester through Juan Veron, father of the current United midfielder. United equalised shortly afterwards but the score remained 1-1 and Estudiantes thus claimed the title of world club champions. But the bruising, physical nature of their play was heavily criticised.

"As the game commenced, the Estudiantes players picked up the men they had been detailed to shadow and this sparked off an immediate exchange of blows," Batty wrote.

"With the ball 40 yards away, the pair I watched for the first two minutes exchanged a kidney punch, an elbow in the ribs, a violent push and kick, which fortunately missed. No referee on earth could have kept track of everything that went on off the ball."

Nobby Stiles was sent off in Buenos Aires as tempers flared in the first leg. George Best and Estudiantes defender Medina were to follow at Old Trafford.

The violent scenes prompted Batty to speculate: "As an advertisement for football, it was a washout, but the match itself gives rise to a great many interesting questions. Have the Argentinians always been 'nasty'? Can we expect the authorities to take firm action and clean up the game? Will they receive support from the clubs? Unfortunately my answer to all these questions is no."

Elsewhere, a youthful Brian Clough was looking to steer Derby County back into the First Division.

In Argentina, River Plate were fined £240,000 for negligence following the stadium tragedy five months earlier which killed 71 fans.

And soccer in North America was in trouble following poor attendance figures and the withdrawal of the Vancouver Royals from the NASL. *Plus ça change.*

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